



GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM  
Centre for British Studies

## ANNUAL REPORT 2012



HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



## WHAT IS THE CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES?

The Centre for British Studies of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin was founded in 1995, in recognition of the UK's role as one of the Allied powers which protected West Berlin during the Cold War.

The Centre's aims are threefold:

- To conduct disciplinary and interdisciplinary research into all matters pertaining to the UK.
- To teach the interdisciplinary, international Master in British Studies course.
- To provide a forum for public debates, events, and readings and thus to engage with topical issues within academia and beyond.



Three professors, five lecturers, as well as office and administrative support staff, a librarian and student assistants work at the Centre.

In addition, guest professors, senior professors and visiting scholars are affiliated to the Centre. Guest lecturers from various British universities regularly teach classes on the M.B.S. course.

In terms of their individual and collective research projects, the Centre's staff are connected most closely to Oxford University and the Open University, as well as to other members of Humboldt-Universität and further German universities such as Hanover, Potsdam, Bielefeld, Heidelberg, Osnabrück, Passau and Leipzig.

Within the university, the Centre for British Studies is independent and operates like a small faculty. Its director fulfils the role of dean, responsible for the overall management of the Centre.

Research, teaching and public events are supported by funding bodies such as the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*, *Alfred Toepfer Stiftung*, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the EU's Erasmus Placement Programme.

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## THE CENTRE IN 2012

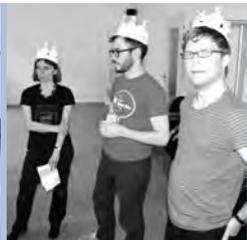
2012 began with a highlight in the first week: the president of Humboldt Universität, Prof Dr Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, together with vice-president Dr Marina Frost, visited the Centre and spent time discussing the Centre's remit, and its research, teaching and other activities with all staff members. This auspicious beginning set the trend for the rest of the year. Other prominent visitors included The Deputy Head of Mission Andrew Noble, from the British Embassy, and Press Officer William Gatward.

On the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, senior staff members attended a garden party at the Ambassador's Residence, and all staff and students celebrated the same occasion in a rather more informal manner at the Centre itself.

In spring, some of the most tried and trusted work placement providers from the UK met the Centre's staff, the students, their past and future interns, for a two-day conference, exchanging information, getting to know the students' needs better, and meeting colleagues from similar institutions in Berlin. The highly creative group of students provided us with a further highlight, a public one this time, with their sports-oriented contribution to the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*, entitled "Play it Like Britain", which staff, students and members of the public enjoyed immensely.

The Monday Lectures and public events were once again very well attended, with topical issues such as the Euro crisis, the European Football Championships, and the Olympic Games featuring prominently.

In academic terms, the staff members continued to organize conferences, advance their individual and joint publications and in general keep abreast of current developments in their respective areas of expertise. Prof Dannemann has wrapped up his large, comparative law research project whose results will be published by Oxford University Press in early 2013. The new research net-



work "Writing 1900", headed by Prof Stedman and Dr Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford), took up its work during a conference in Siggen in April 2012, and followed up with a conference on objects in October 2012 in Berlin.

In the autumn, a number of changes occurred, with Prof Danne-mann returning from his research leave, and his replacement, Dr Steven Truxal, leaving for a new post as Law Lecturer at City University in London after a year of lively participation and exchange with the Centre's staff, lawyers as well as non-lawyers. Dr Heather Ellis also left for the UK at the beginning of the new academic year, to take up a position as senior lecturer at Liverpool Hope University. We wish them both the best of luck and look forward to our continued cooperation during the coming years. Dr Daphne Bolz joined the Centre in November to pursue her DAAD-funded research project on the cultural transfer of sport between Britain and Germany. In 2013 she will become the Centre's first Marie Curie-Fellow. Dr Erik Spindler, already well-known to all the Centre's staff as he is our first Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, will replace Dr Heather Ellis and will shortly take up his post as Researcher and Lecturer in British History.

The largest group of students the Centre has ever had started their course in October. 34 young people from many different countries and backgrounds immediately set to work during the first week, which had been redesigned by Senior Professor Jürgen Schlaeger and Christopher Schuller. The students were asked to prepare a court case, with Great Britain on trial, and conscientiously worked to this end during the first few days, thus learning from the beginning how fascinating and profitable interdisciplinary research and debates can be.



The students were welcomed by this year's keynote speaker, Prof Elleke Boehmer, a distinguished scholar in postcolonial history and literature, from Wolfson College, Oxford, and were invited to a drinks reception afterwards.

The Centre for British Studies is pleased that Humboldt Universität has won a place in the so-called Excellency Competition, and supports the university's related efforts to become more international in its research and teaching.

We hope that all our new students, staff and guests will continue the productive work they have begun this year and look forward to reporting their many activities in the next annual report.

Gesa Stedman

# MASTER IN BRITISH STUDIES

## Course Description



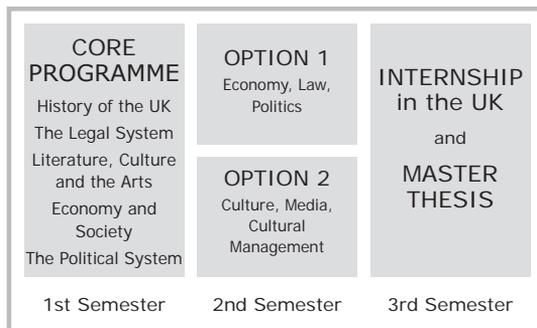
Our postgraduate Master course started in 1999 and has become a resounding success. The quality of applicants' degrees for the 30 places available every year has risen consistently. In 2008 the course was formally reaccredited by the Accreditation Agency AQAS. The accreditation committee's report was again full of praise and confirmed that the course has developed into a successful and unique study programme. Altogether it is an exhilarating experience to work with bright young people from more than a dozen countries and with more than a dozen different first degrees. The magnitude of the challenge in teaching such a heterogeneous group is easily compensated for by the degree of satisfaction all teachers derive from the experience.

## Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the M.B.S. course are

- To enable students to add competence in British Studies to qualifications acquired during their first degree course.
- To prepare students for positions in businesses, organisations, and institutions which require in-depth knowledge of the UK and the way it works.
- To promote cross-cultural understanding, communication, and mobility.
- To teach students interdisciplinary methods and approaches, enabling them to think and work contextually.
- To provide them with an understanding of the characteristic features and the transformations of British identities and institutions from a European perspective.

90 ECTS M.B.S.



## 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.

You can find all necessary information on admissions as well as an application form on our website under "M.B.S."

Applications must be submitted by 30th April of the year in which the applicant intends to start the course; applicants should use the application form available on the Centre's website. Interviews for selected candidates usually take place in June, with places allocated early in July. The course starts in October.

## Course Structure

The postgraduate degree course in British Studies is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. The course can be studied in two versions: The 90 ECTS M.B.S. lasts 1½ years and is for students whose first degree course is equivalent to at least 210 ECTS credits (3½ years of full-time study). The 120 ECTS M.B.S. lasts 2 years and admits students whose first degree course is equivalent to less than 210 but at least 180 ECTS credits (3 years of full-time study).

The course consists of a two-semester Certificate Phase followed by a Master Phase. The Master Phase comprises one semester on the 1½-year programme and two semesters on the 2-year programme.



120 ECTS M.B.S.

The Certificate Phase comprises about 30 weeks of teaching, divided further into two phases. The first phase ('Core Programme') consists of a series of teaching units which are compulsory for all students. In the second phase ('Options Programme') students can choose one out of two options: 'Economy, Law, and Politics' or 'Culture, Media, and Cultural Management'. Students have to attend at least 20 hours of classes per week on average.

During the Master Phase students spend some time with a British company, a public institution, or another suitable organisation in the UK. Internship and Master Thesis last three months each on the 1½-year programme, and six months each on the 2-year programme.

The course is taught in English.

Having successfully completed the Certificate Phase, students receive a "British Studies" certificate. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree "Master in British Studies" (M.B.S.).

## Core Programme

The Core Programme consists of three teaching modules which are obligatory for all students. In 2012, these modules contained the following teaching units (lectures, seminars, workshops, project work etc.):



### Module 1: Introduction

- Workshop on Britain and the World (2 ECTS)
- Application and Research Skills (1 ECTS)
- Academic Writing Workshop (1,5 ECTS)
- Media and Presentation Workshops (1,5 ECTS)
- Project Management I (1,5 ECTS)

### Module 2: Law, Politics, Economy, and History

- British History (3,5 ECTS)
- Empire and Commonwealth History (2 ECTS)
- The British Economy (2 ECTS)
- The English Legal System (2 ECTS)
- Constitutional Law and the Political System (3,5 ECTS)
- Social Structures of the UK (2 ECTS)

### Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK

- A Cultural History of Literature in English (4 ECTS)
- Contemporary British Literature in Context I:  
Crime Novels (1 ECTS)
- British Identities (2 ECTS)
- Contemporary Britain (2 ECTS)

## Options Programme

Students specialise by choosing one of two options:

### Option 1: Economy, Law, and Politics

#### Module 1: Accompanying Module

- Contemporary Developments in the UK (1,5 ECTS)
- Advanced Academic Writing (1 ECTS)
- Workshop Intercultural Communication (1,5 ECTS)
- Project Management II (4 ECTS)

#### Module 2: Economy

- Consumerism in Britain (2 ECTS)
- Financial Markets and International Trade (2 ECTS)
- Marketing (2 ECTS)
- Mass Media in the UK (2 ECTS)

#### Module 3: Law

- Contract Law (2 ECTS)
- Tort Law (2 ECTS)
- Commercial Law (2 ECTS)
- Legal Theory and the Culture of Law (2 ECTS)

#### Module 4: Politics

- Politics at the Centre: Monarchy, the Lords, the Civil Service (1 ECTS)
- Politics Beyond the Centre: Devolution, Local Government, State and Economy (2 ECTS)
- Social Movements and Popular Protest (2 ECTS)
- British International Relations (1 ECTS)



### Option 2: Culture, Media, and Cultural Management

#### Module 1: Accompanying Module

- Contemporary Developments in the UK (1,5 ECTS)
- Advanced Academic Writing (1 ECTS)
- Workshop Intercultural Communication (1,5 ECTS)
- Project Management II (4 ECTS)

#### Module 2: High and Popular Culture

- Gender and Social Mobility in Life Writing (2 ECTS)
- Women and Gender in 19th and 20th-Century Britain (2 ECTS)
- Postcolonial Britain (2 ECTS)
- Legal Theory and the Culture of Law (2 ECTS)

#### Module 3: British Media – Past and Present

- Mass Media in the UK (2 ECTS)
- Film in the UK (2 ECTS)
- The Media in Consumer Society (2 ECTS)
- The Public Sphere and Popular Culture (2 ECTS)

#### Module 4: Cultural Management

- Cultural Policy and Funding in the Cultural Sector (1,5 ECTS)
- The Literary Field in the UK (2,5 ECTS)
- Marketing (2 ECTS)



## M.B.S. Students Class 2011-2013

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Bergman, Eric	Finland/USA	English Literature
2. Bilgisel, Dilara	Turkey	English Language and Literature
3. Brodecka, Anna	Poland	Philology; Russian Studies
4. Conrad, Paulin	Germany	Modern Languages, Cultures; Business Studies
5. Drechsel, Julia	Germany	British and American Studies; Philosophy
6. Fafinski, Mateusz	Poland	History
7. Gaebler, Jeanne Marie	Germany	Cultural Studies; English and American Studies
8. Grishkova, Sofya	Russia	Oceanography
9. Guo, Mengzhi	China	English Language and Literature
10. Hall, Jayne	UK	Politics
11. Harmuszkiewicz, Dominika	Poland	English Studies; Linguistics



Name	Country	First Degree
12. Hartlapp, Peter	Germany	Theatre and Media
13. Ignatova, Natalia	Russia	English and Spanish
14. Knežević, Mirta	Croatia	English Language and Literature
15. Oberthür, Julia	Germany	Communication and Media
16. Pichugina, Yulia	Russia	International Relations
17. Plewa, Edyta	Poland	English Language Teaching; Accounting and Corporate Finance
18. Strecker, Till	Germany	Political Sciences
19. Tamakhina, Olga	Russia	Translation and Translation Studies
20. Waage, Inga Phorunn	Iceland	English Literature; Creative Writing
21. Wegenstein, Josefine	Germany	English
22. Veligurova, Lina	Russia	Management
23. Zaytsev, Artem	Russia	Philology and English Language



## Class 2012-2014

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Angelova, Antoaneta	Bulgaria	International Relations
2. Anikieva, Anna	Russia	Linguist, Translator
3. Baryzhikova, Evgenia	Russia	Linguist, Translator
4. Chizhikov Egor	Russia	World Economy, Foreign Affairs
5. Colța, Alexandra-Maria	Romania	Communication Studies, Advertising
6. Döring, Caroline	Germany	Cultural Studies
7. Duke, Anthony	UK	Sociology
8. Ezgin, Okhan	Germany	English, Mathematics and Computer Science
9. Faizova, Ellina	Russia	Foreign Languages and Cultures
10. Fisenko, Anastasia	Russia	Oriental and African Studies
11. Goldschmidt, Hanna	Germany	English and German Studies
12. Hanchar, Katsiaryna	Belarus	Pre-school Education, English
13. Hulsey, Sasha	USA	Political Science, International Studies
14. Jacob, Jennifer	Germany	Modern Languages, Cultures and Economics
15. Jović, Isidora	Serbia	English Language and Literature
16. Kalbitz, Thomas	Germany	Intercultural European and American Studies, History
17. Kazakov, Stanislav	Russia	Philology (English and German)
18. Kovkhuto, Yury	Belarus	Modern Foreign Languages, Cross-Cultural Studies
19. Kulikova, Maria	Russia	Intercultural Communication
20. Lobig, Sophie	Germany	English, Chemistry
21. Maletz, Christian	Germany	British and American Studies, Russian Studies
22. Mehring, Clara	Germany	English Studies, Psychology
23. Nurlanov, Marat	Russia	Political Science, Comparative Politics
24. Panfilova, Kseniia	Russia	English Language, Comparative Literature
25. Putova, Taisiya	Russia	Foreign Cultures and Languages

Name	Country	First Degree
26. Rogovaia, Irina	Russia	International Journalism, Public Relations
27. Sabyanina, Olga	Russia	English and German
28. Sarkar, Tathagata	India	History (Indian and World History)
29. Shamotko, Anastasiya	Ukraine	English Philology and Literature
30. Shcherbakova, Anna	Russia	Linguistics, Intercultural Communication
31. Shea, Christopher	USA	English Language and Literature
32. Werner, David	USA	Political Science
33. Yatskova, Olga	Russia	German and English Languages and Cultures



## Teaching

### Examples

#### Introductory Week

This year, a radical shakeup of the MBS introductory week under the leadership of Prof Schlaeger saw students hit the ground running in a moot court scenario. The defendant was Britain itself, and the charges were (1) economic exploitation, (2) opposition to European integration, and (3) cultural suppression through colonialism. Each count was to be tried in a simulated Crown Court proceeding, with other groups of students serving as the jury.



The Judge



The Jury



The Prosecution



The Defence

Students were introduced to the exercise and its parameters on Tuesday, and had two full days to research their cases. The class was split into groups, with each group charged with either prosecuting or defending one count of the indictment. On Thursday, Britain went to trial, with MBS lecturer Christopher Schuller serving as the judge. Acting as prosecutor, defender, and juror, the MBS students carried out a long day of litigation which ultimately resulted in a guilty verdict for Britain on two of the three counts.

In their debriefing, students praised the group-building challenge, which nonetheless required them to work quickly to become familiar

with major themes that will follow them throughout their time as MBS students. Every student was required to make a presentation to the Court, and the presentations were well-informed, passionate, and convincing in every hearing. Afterwards, the Court and all the litigants celebrated the end of the introductory week and the beginning of the MBS course in an informal setting.



## New Social Movements and Popular Protest in the Contemporary UK

This course, taught by guest lecturer Adrian Wilding, looked at grassroots and extra-parliamentary politics in Britain, focussing in particular on environmentalism and environmental pressure groups, the recently revived student movement and groups such as Occupy and UKUncut. Study of video and campaign websites illustrated the lectures. The distinctive organisation of these new social movements and their novel political ideas were discussed and debated in class. As assessment, students researched and wrote their own political pamphlet setting forth the principles and ideals of a social movement of their own creation.



## Guest Lectures

### Dr Harshan Kumarasingham

Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London

On 23rd January 2012 as part of the Empire and Commonwealth History course, Dr. Kumarasingham, Henry Charles Chapman Fellow, led a session entitled 'From World War I to Decolonisation and the Rise of the Commonwealth.' Drawing on his expertise as a historian of the Commonwealth, Harshan introduced the class to the major social, political and cultural issues of the process of decolonisation in the 20th Century, and encouraged groups of students to consider key questions such as:

Why did India want to join the Commonwealth? Should the Decolonisation of the British Empire be viewed as an achievement or a failure? Does the Commonwealth have any value as an International Organisation?

### Dr Klaus Nathaus

University of Bielefeld

As part of the Option II course 'Britain in a World of Music' Prof Eisenberg invited Dr Klaus Nathaus from the University of Bielefeld to give a talk on "Why was there a 'Rock Revolution' in Britain? Comparing the Production and Evaluation of Popular Music in Britain and West Germany".

### Prof Valentine Cunningham

Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford

Prof Valentine Cunningham explained the judging process of the Booker Prize in the "The Literary Field in the UK" class. As he has

been on the committee twice (in 1992 and 1998), he was able to tell some inside stories. Valentine Cunningham also writes reviews for several UK newspapers and journals, and informed the students about the most important institutions for literary reviews in the UK.

### **Prof Julia Fionda**

Kingston University, London

Prof Fionda is Professor of Law at Kingston University, London. Julia gave a talk on the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO), explained what it is and how the ASBO came about. She contextualised the ASBO with/in Labour policies and criticised various aspects. Prof Fionda shared many examples with M.B.S. students that illustrated how ridiculous some of the measures are – and how even small children can become victims. The most shocking case was the one of a mentally-disabled child who was given an ASBO for playing too loudly.

### **Dr Anamik Saha**

University of Leeds

Dr Anamik Saha visited the class on “The Literary Field in the UK” and taught a session about “Commodification and British Asian cultural production”. He showed that, despite many British Asian writers’ attempts to challenge stereotypical representations of Asians and British Asians, these groups still often end up being represented in fairly stereotypical, Orientalist ways anyway. Our special guest was the author Rajeev Balasubramanyam, who shared some of his personal experience with British publishers.



From left:  
Julia Fionda, Anamik Saha

### **Prof Jason Chuah**

The City Law School, University of London

Prof Chuah is Head of Academic Law at The City Law School, City University, London. Prof Chuah gave a workshop on Commercial Negotiation to students on the Contract Law course. Students

were briefed on 'soft skills' necessary to be an effective negotiator and awareness of cultural or behavioural aspects of negotiation before practicing these skills in mock negotiations with one another.

## **Senior Professor Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE**

Centre for British Studies

Prof Schlaeger taught units on the 18th-century novel and on Romanticism, he offered a workshop in support of M.B.S. students writing their theses and he also supervised a number of Masters and PhD Theses. Furthermore, Prof Schlaeger, together with Christopher Schuller, designed a programme focused around a hypothetical court case against the UK (see page 12). This remodeled introductory week thus helped to make the newcomers acquainted not only with each other but also with quite a few aspects of their chosen object of study. Prof Schlaeger is also involved in the Centre's internationalization strategies.

## **Miriam Ducke**

British Embassy, Berlin

Miriam was a student assistant at the Centre and now works as Trade Adviser for Creative Industries at the British Embassy in Berlin. In November she gave a workshop on British Cultural Policy. Students learnt about the origin of arts funding in the UK, key players and current cultural policy developments. They had the opportunity to analyse analogies between the wider policy objectives of the present UK government and its impact on concrete cultural policies.

## **Dr Stefano Evangelista**

Trinity College, University of Oxford

An expert on aestheticism and turn-of-the-century English literature, Dr Stefano Evangelista gave an inspiring lecture on Oscar Wilde and late-19th-century aesthetic culture as part of Gesa Stedman's literary history lecture course. Visual aids and film clips helped to give the students an impression of this seminal moment in cultural and literary history.



## Internships

Name	Institution
Bergman, Eric	Jackie Baillie MSP, Edinburgh
Bilgisel, Dilara	Open University Scotland, Edinburgh
Brodecka, Anna	Open University Scotland, Edinburgh
Conrad, Paulin	The European Commission Representation, London
Drechsel, Julia	German Embassy, London
Fafinski, Mateusz	National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh
Gaebler, Jeanne Marie	National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh
Grishkova, Sofya	Pearson plc, London
Guo, Mengzhi	SCA Investments Ltd, London
Hall, Jayne	European Commission, London
Harmuszkiewicz, Dominika	Languages Training and Development, Witney
Hartlapp, Peter	Takeover Radio, Sutton-in-Ashfield
Ignatova, Natalia	Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, London
Knežević, Mirta	Metal Culture, Liverpool
Oberthür, Julia	Birmingham City Council
Pichugina, Yulia	Ben Bradshaw MP, London
Plewa, Edyta	Anglolang Academy of English, Scarborough
Strecker, Till	Compassion in World Farming, Godalming
Tamakhina, Olga	Jackie Baillie MSP, Edinburgh
Waage, Inga Þhorunn	New Island Books, Dublin, Ireland
Wegenstein, Josefine	Pearson plc, London
Veligurova, Lina	British Council Germany, Berlin
Zaytsev, Artem	The Roald Dahl Museum, Great Missenden

## Reports

Peter Hartlapp

### **Takeover Radio, Sutton-in-Ashfield**

My internship at Takeover Radio 106.9 near Nottingham is a great opportunity for me to gain some hands-on experience in UK radio broadcasting – after previous experiences as a newsreader for a radio station in Berlin. On Mondays, I have my own late night show for which I always get very helpful feedback from the station manager, as well as listeners from the UK and Germany who listen to our programme online. Besides broadcasting I am entrusted with a variety of jobs covering the Charity aspect of Takeover Radio: organising local events (conferences, concerts, other charity events) or supervising and coaching young presenters. I am very thankful for this internship and I can strongly recommend this internship to anyone who is interested in how media and charity can work together. My Master thesis will be exactly about that kind of topic: the work of BBC Media Action in Cambodia and its impact on youth and gender.



Jayne Hall

### **The European Commission Representation, London**

For my internship I worked at the European Commission Representation in London which involved attending conferences and writing reports. I also helped to organise events and carried out research for the Political Department. I am pleased that I had the opportunity to work in a busy, multilingual, office environment whereby I felt welcome and was incorporated into the team. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to live with some of my fellow classmates in London and socialise with the GBZ class in the UK. This internship has provided me with a lot of experience and skill that I think will be useful for my future career and I am pleased that an internship forms part of my Masters course at the GBZ.



London, 7 am.  
Getting ready  
for work:  
Jayne, Sofya,  
Paulin (from  
left).

## M.B.S. Theses

Name	Thesis
Bubke, Claudia	Crime is King. The Marketing of Ian Rankin in the British and German Literary Field
Bungeroth, Lisa	Narrating the State of the British Nations: National Identities in Post-Devolutionary Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Literature
Curtis, Paul	The Politics of Destruction and Preservation: An Analysis of Britain's Relationship with the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
Davydova, Arina	Religion and Art: Challenges of Multicultural Secular Society
Domise, Audrey	Language, Identity and Tourism: Using the Welsh Language to Market Wales?
Duschl, Sophie	The Role of Consensus in the House of Lords Reform Process
Florea, Anne-Marie	Open Content and Digital Access Strategies in British and German Cultural Heritage Institutions
Grams, Oxana	How to Stay on Top? The British Aristocracy as a Prosperous Class, c. 1800-1880
Halachev, Kaloyan	Promotion of regional economic development in Germany and Great Britain: Comparative Examination of the Patterns of Regional Economic Promotion in the Capital Cities Berlin and London
Hauschel, Lisa	The Politics of Child Poverty: Comparing and Contrasting Scotland and the United Kingdom
Hawich, Nora	The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre and the Erich Kästner Museum: Concepts of Conveying Literature
Hildesheim, Pia	The National Museum of Scotland – Reflections on the Relationship between National Museums and National Identity in the 21st Century
Hoffmann, Silke	British Society and the Challenges of Multiculturalism
Khorobrykh, Alexandra	British and American Intelligence Views on Soviet Power During the Early Cold War: a Comparative Study
Mihoc, Stefania-Adina	Immigration Policy and the British Labour Market: The Case of Romanian Workers
Misakyan, Karine	Britain and Europe: the Importance of the Thatcher Years for the Current Relationship

Name	Thesis
Neumann, Melanie	Religion in the Troubles in Northern Ireland – a Driving Force?
Noble, Sam	Producers and Consumers: Money-Making and the Development of British National Identity during the Golden Age of Satire
Orrigo, Irene	The Role of Arts Organizations in the Urban Regeneration of Industrial Cities: A Case Study of Edge Hill, Liverpool
Overbeck, Sonja	'The Other' in American and British Works of Urban Fantasy
Roßmann, Nina	European Integration and National Identity – a Comparison of the Development of Political Parties' Positions on Europe in the UK and Germany
Shudrak, Olga	Multicultural Britain and Canada: The Case of Muslims
Stevenson, William	Restrictions, Reforms and the Colonial Legacy: British Nationality 1948-1981
Stiberg, Carolina	Following the "Nordic Model"? – Envisioning an Independent Scotland
Wang, Pei	Charles Elliott and the First Opium War – Britain's Mismanagement of Sino-British Relations



## Further Activities

### Exhibition “Found in Translation”, Deutsche Guggenheim



In February the students visited the exhibition *Found in Translation* hosted by the Deutsche Guggenheim. Jessica Fischer and Sandra Müller organized a guided tour. An art historian introduced each of the nine artists and their recent art works, which employ the concept of translation not only to criticise but also to offer new possibilities for today's society. Nat Trotman, Associate Curator of the Guggenheim Museum in New York explains: “For these artists, converting a text from one language to

another exposes a discursive field in which the terms of identity – class, race, religion, sexuality – are negotiated, and meaning is generated. An apparently straightforward linguistic task therefore becomes a microcosm for the interaction between cultures.”



From left: Robin Greenham, Tania Szabó and the two Julias

### Interpreting a Book Presentation at Ravensbrück Concentration Camp

Report by students Julia Drechsel and Julia Oberthür

On 20 April, we were asked to work as interpreters at the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp Memorial for a talk given by Tania Szabó, the British author of the book *Young, Brave and Beautiful*. The book retells the short and thrilling life of Tania's mother, Violette Szabó, who was sabotaging the Nazis in France as an agent of the Special Operations Executive. Violette, at the time only 23 years old, was executed at Ravensbrück – a notorious concentration camp for women – in 1942. Even though none of us had any experience in interpreting we did a very good job according to the feedback we got. Also, it was a real pleasure to meet Tania, who is a very impressive and charming person.



### London 2012 - Games with a Legacy

In May the British Embassy in Berlin invited a delegation of M.B.S. students to a panel discussion on the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. The talk given by experts from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) focussed on the impact of these events on the UK in general and London in particular.

## GBZ Viewing: France vs England

Students, staff and guests watched the European Championship match France vs England on 11 June. While nobody risked a heart attack during the very controlled and cautious game, the spectators were in a good mood. The match ended in a tie: Nasri scored for France, Lescott for England (both players won the Premier League with Manchester City in 2012). England and France were both eliminated in the quarter-finals.

## Excursion: *Berlin Verlag*

The students of the class on “The Literary Field in the UK” visited the *Berlin Verlag*. The former imprint of Bloomsbury had just been bought by Piper, a subsidiary of the Bonnier Group. So the students got a first-hand glimpse of conglomeration in the literary market. Furthermore, the friendly publishers explained the many steps in the making of books: from finding new authors and working with them to improve the manuscripts to the design of book jackets to the distribution and the marketing of the final products, many questions were answered and insights provided.

## Visit of the British Embassy Berlin

On 13th November the students paid a visit to the British Embassy Berlin for a tour around this impressive building in Wilhelmstrasse. They were also given the opportunity to discuss current issues with Simon Boyden who is First Secretary for EU agriculture, budget, employment and social affairs. This turned out to be an interesting question and discussion time, so much so that we were well behind schedule and had to break off.



## SPOTLIGHT

### Student Project

#### Play it like Britain!

by Julia Oberthür and Paulin Conrad  
(Project Managers)



The M.B.S. is an interdisciplinary degree course which provides a theoretical introduction to British related topics and the practical application of this acquired knowledge. One of the ways to do this, was to let us participate in a seven-month project management class. The aim was to create a project which was to be presented during Berlin's "Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften", on 2 June 2012. Throughout the seminar, we received theoretical insights into the basics of project management which we then transferred directly into the development of our own project. This project represented a self-organised undertaking supervised by one of the lecturers, Jens Ennen, aiming at the promotion of the GBZ and the UK.

It was suggested to include two very important current events into the project: first, the celebration of the Queen's Crown Jubilee and, second, the London Olympics. These requirements soon determined a general frame for the content

choice of the topic. Whereas sports was decided to dominate the event, the students expanded the concept as a whole towards 'PLAY' in order to include more than just sports-related issues, such as musicians PLAYING music, children PLAYING games, etc. 'Play it like Britain' offered itself as a perfect title.

Thus, the first challenge to find a theme was soon resolved. A second challenge was the formation of groups and the allocation of tasks. We suggested 8 groups; finance, fundraising, pub, band, exhibition and competition, children's corner, marketing/PR/IT, each comprising a specific number of students. Hence, the third challenge for us as project managers was the coordination of these sub-



groups, the evening of the event itself and the aftermath.

Due to the wide scope of the theme, our project comprised numerous sub-events. First, we had a small presentation of the key facts about the London Olympics and Paralympics as well as their history. This exhibition opened the project and was bilingual, designed to attract all visitors alike.

Apart from that, traditional and weird British sports were depicted and, in some cases, even made available for play in miniature form in the competition area. Furthermore, competitive games included table football, cheese rolling, flamingo croquet and ringing the bull.



Next to the exhibition, we had a small children's corner which provided many exciting games for children, including the decoration of cup cakes, imitating Quidditch or colouring in British motifs. We also had a Pub, in which the visitors were able to taste typical British snacks and drinks. On the big stage, our own in-class band offered a collection of their own songs, which they performed three times during the evening and which was one of the

many attractions our project offered. The Scottish Dancing Society performed typically Scottish country dances and animated the audience to try themselves, while our main sponsor Lieferheld liberally served free pizzas.

In sum, the project was a challenging but highly enjoyable experience. Through the position we took, we learned a lot about teamwork and coordination and were able to connect better with our fellow students. We experienced some critical misunderstandings and often the groups were very much in two minds about

the whole concept. Nevertheless, we managed to create a topically unique project with a diversity of elements presented and activities included.

At the event, the visitors got to know a bunch of creative, talented and enthusiastic people working together as a great team.



## Alumni



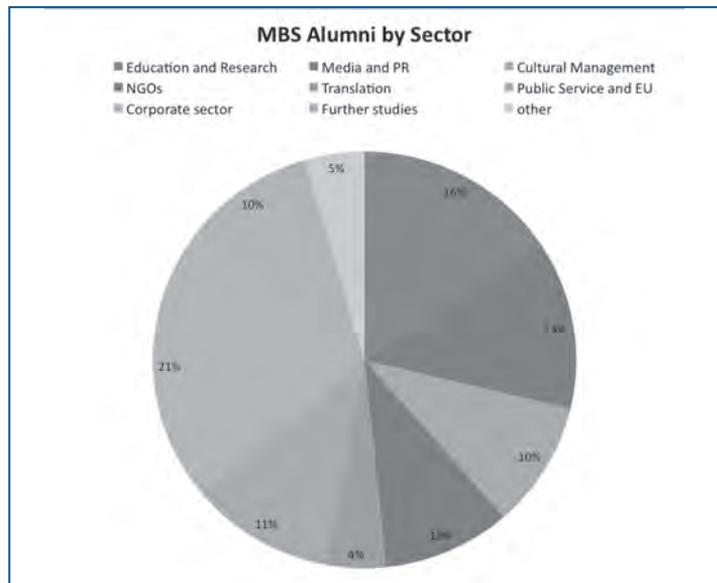
The Centre keeps in touch with its alumni for a number of reasons. We not only follow what becomes of our former students, we also continue to send them information about the Centre and about British Studies in general through a regular Alumni Newsletter via e-mail. The Centre distributes events information and job postings through its alumni mailing lists, and connects current students with former students for mentoring and internship placement purposes.



This year, we have up-to-date information about the employment status of 153 M.B.S. graduates. A breakdown of occupation by sector is shown below. Over the last eighteen months, there has been a slight decrease of alumni working in the public sector and a corresponding increase of those working in the commercial sector, as is only to be expected at a time when the public sector is shrinking.

It is always a pleasure to meet former students and to hear about their activities.

Keep in Touch: the Centre is online at [www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de) and on Facebook as "Gbz Berlin" – please always let us know when you have a new job, a new baby, or of any other updates, especially if you have a new address. If you are in touch with M.B.S. friends, please encourage them to contact the Centre as well.



## What happened to ...

### Nikolay Denin

#### Class 2004-2006

When I started the MBS my idea was to learn as much as possible about the UK and Germany and to stay in one of those countries to live. However life had its own intentions and although I did learn a lot I ended up in Spain with my new wife. Taking advantage of the languages I know I found a job in international trade. Very useful here was what I learned at the GBZ regarding presentation techniques and intercultural communication. Then, all of a sudden, I was offered a job back in Germany through the EURES webpage and they told me that what was very important for them, apart from the professional background, was that I had already lived in Germany and knew the country. So, thank you GBZ! And, by the way, we have a Golden Retriever whose name is Berlin. It is obvious we were deeply shaped by the city and the GBZ.

### Dorit Modersitzki (nee. Kupfer)

#### Class 2004-2006

It has been my goal to work in an international environment. I was unsure, however, what kind of job that would be. After graduating from the Centre in 2006, I worked in a conference management agency in Berlin for a year before moving to Karlsruhe to focus on a new field of work: science management. I was involved in the coordination of several research projects at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. The city of Karlsruhe may be a technology hub, but it is still working on establishing a diverse cultural scene. So, three years later, with new husband and son in tow, I moved back to Berlin. I still benefit from the MBS on many levels, particularly since I re-joined Humboldt Universität. The International Strategy Office I am a part of supports the university in shaping an international profile and developing international profile partnerships.



Alumna Joy Caban (M.B.S. 2007) with former lecturer Dr Rita Gerlach-March and their lovely girls.

## TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES AND UNIVERSITIES

### **Interdisciplinarity in Historical Research**

During the winter semester 2011/12 Prof Christiane Eisenberg taught this seminar at the Humboldt Universität's Institute for Historical Studies. Dealing with past and current research in the field of sport history, its main task was to discuss specific methods and standards of historical research and to analyse both the merits and the costs of interdisciplinary co-operation.

### **Lectures: International and Comparative Contract Law**

Prof Gerhard Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt Universität's Law Faculty during the winter term 2012/13. 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.

### **Summer School: Cultural Exchange and Postcolonialism**

Together with her colleague Professor Birgit Neumann (Passau), Prof Gesa Stedman spent two weeks teaching at a summer school in the South of France. Organised by the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, gifted students from various academic fields attended their seminar on cultural exchange and postcolonialism. Lively discussions of theoretical texts and case studies relating to the area, to literary studies, art history, or postcolonial issues took place during the mornings, while the afternoons were given over to preparing materials and to local visits, among them to the modernist art exhibition at the *Fondation Maeght*. Gesa Stedman and Birgit Neumann also gave an evening lecture on the history of tea in the light of cultural exchange studies and postcolonialism which was greeted with enthusiasm on the part of the audience.

### **Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations***

During the winter semester 2012/13, Dr Georgia Christinidis taught a BA *Hauptseminar* on 'Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*' at the University of Rostock. In the course of this seminar, students examined Dickens' novel from a wide variety of perspectives, including cultural historical, genre theoretical, and narratological approaches. They were also asked to create a photographic adaptation of one of the novel's central images, Miss Havisham's wedding feast.

### ***Neoliberales Denken in historischer Perspektive: das Beispiel Großbritanniens***

In this course, taught by Prof Christiane Eisenberg at the Humboldt Universität's Institute for Historical Studies (*Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften*) during the summer semester 2012, students analysed ideas on the relationship between the state and society in market economies. The main task was to compare the writings of "liberal" and "neoliberal" authors. In doing so the seminar clarified specifically British ideas of equality and inequality, fairness and social justice.



## RESEARCH

### Conferences and Workshops

#### Working Group on Cultural Studies

14 January 2012

The *Arbeitskreis* Cultural Studies met at the Centre for British Studies on 14 January 2012. Two researchers associated with the Centre gave papers: Dr Erik Spindler (Humboldt Research Fellow) presented ongoing research on Netherlandish immigrants in medieval England, and Veronika Schmideder (who had just handed it her PhD thesis, supervised by Prof Gesa Stedman of the Centre for British Studies) discussed representations of Belfast in the novels of Glenn Patterson, the contemporary Northern Irish writer. In the second part of the day, Henning Marquardt and Ellen Grünkemeier discussed an innovative format for integrating teaching and organising a major conference, in which students were asked to prepare the conference programme leaflet and to write notes on the conference as part of a project management module. Henning Marquardt also outlined issues and successes in conference organisation. While huge progress has been made, it appears that childcare arrangements in academia remain somewhat hit-and-miss.

#### Democratic Movement in the Arabic World: A Spring into a Stable Future?

30th British Berlin Seminar

5-7 March 2012



The first seminar of its kind took place in 1986, with the aim of bringing together mainly members of the British Forces, German Bundeswehr, but also relevant invited speakers and guests from, for example, diplomatic missions and NGOs to discuss an ongoing and current issue related to international security policy.

This year's seminar dealt with the Arab Spring, a topic remaining at the forefront of international interest. It attracted well known speakers such as a senior lecturer from the Royal

Military Academy Sandhurst, senior diplomats, including the Deputy Head of Mission of the British Embassy, a spokesperson from the Israeli Embassy in Berlin, the German Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the German Institute for International Security Affairs. Apart from speakers' presentations, there was ample op-

portunity for participants to engage in lively discussion through plenary sessions and syndicate groups.

Furthermore, 2012 also saw the return of the 'founding fathers' - Dr Günter Büchner and Brigadier (Retired) Chris Horsfall, together with Professor Schlaeger, who gave a little background information about the seminar. This year the seminar was hosted by Major General Nick Caplin (British Forces Germany), Brigadegeneral Peter Braunstein (German Commander of the Berlin Garrison), and Professor Eisenberg. Feedback from all delegates reflected not only an interesting and thought-provoking 2-day seminar, but a wonderful opportunity to meet others with similar interests and briefly enjoy the sights of Germany's capital city, Berlin.

## Writing 1900: Transit/Transition

### Siggen 12-16 April 2012

In spring 2012, the interdisciplinary group led by Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) met for a four-day workshop at the Gut Siggen Seminar Centre, thanks to a successful application for support from the Alfred Toepfer Foundation. The workshop featured a mixture of seminars, case studies and brainstorming sessions. In advance of the meeting, participants were asked to read a number of articles and book chapters outlining specific methodological and theoretical questions in comparative and transnational studies. These were then discussed by means of presentations and responses. There was a discussion session devoted to postcolonial studies. Members who had not attended previous workshops presented case studies relevant to their current research. The aim of this longer workshop was to consolidate the identity of the group and to create a space where participants would feel free to explore theories of cultural/literary exchange and cultural mediation away from the standard format of academic conferences.



## Marketisation Continued? Views on Britain from History, Political Science and Economics

18-20 May 2012

The term marketisation has a historical and a social science dimension. The former describes the creation, spread and shaping of markets for goods, services and resources, as well as the implementation of the “cash nexus”, i.e. the mediation of social relationships via money. In the case of Britain this centuries-long process goes back to the early modern period. The social science dimension comprises “neoliberal” policies in modern society like, for example, the delegation of state powers to private actors (e.g. public-private partnerships) or checking and controlling administrative dealings from a business point of view (evaluations, audits). In Britain such policies are generally regarded as a side effect and result of Thatcherism. However, when we take account of both dimensions of marketisation simultaneously, this standard interpretation is defamiliarised.

This conference brought together historians and social scientists to enable them to conduct a stimulating exchange of opinions. Scholars considered whether contemporary neoliberal politics mediate qualitatively new experiences of marketisation or whether it can better be regarded as a further development impulse in a historical process which began many centuries ago.

The conference, which was organised by Prof Eisenberg for the *Arbeitskreis Deutsche England-Forschung* (German Association for the Study of British History and Politics) and took place in Mülheim/Ruhr, was generously supported by the *Thyssen Stiftung*. For a more detailed conference report see <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=4273>

## Olympia – Arbeit am Mythos

20 June 2012

This event, organised by Prof Eisenberg on the occasion of the Olympic Games in London 2012, attracted a large audience of scholars both of British and Sport Studies. Three presentations analysed well-known legends set up in the Olympic context, from Ancient Greece via Berlin 1936 to London 2012. Prof Eisenberg asked whether the games in Ancient Greece really served as a model for the modern Olympic games or whether these could better be regarded as a most successful ‘invention of tradition’. Emanuel Huebner (Münster) showed parts of his compilation film of private amateur shots from the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, which, in accentuating the buoyant atmosphere of the event, relativized the image generated by Leni Riefenstahl’s propaganda film. Finally,





Chris Young (Cambridge) looked back on the urban development projects connected to the 2012 Olympics from the perspective of the year 2050, thereby drawing a fictitious image that sharply contrasts with the glossy pictures with which the London games were promoted. All three speakers sought to not only debunk such myths by relating their analyses to the media, particular political interests, ideologies and zeitgeist, but also to consider what is irrecoverably lost with regard to the fascination of the Olympic games if the impact of such

superstructures begins to dwindle. The discussion was chaired by Prof Sebastian Braun (Institute of Sports, HU). Andrew Noble, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, Berlin, found the time to give a short welcome speech.

## Writing 1900: Objects

**25-27 October 2012**

In this follow-up meeting from the Siggen workshop, chaired by Prof Stedman, each participant presented one object that exemplifies a narrative or mode of transition that took place around the year 1900. The discussion focused on how to create a productive dialogue between the study of material culture / object theory and literary and cultural history. Case studies included barbed wire, jewellery, memorial sculpture, photographs, postcards, round mirrors, the telephone, the trilby hat and the vacuum cleaner. The group also discussed venturing into a funded European network in the coming year, a possible follow-up workshop in Oxford or Bristol, and had the pleasure of being taken for a guided tour around the Berlinische Galerie, with a special focus on turn-of-the-century paintings from Berlin.



## SPOTLIGHT

### Placement Provider Conference



During their Masters phase, the M.B.S. students spend between three and six months completing a placement with a company or institution in the UK. This obligatory part of the course is not only a valuable learning experience; it is also a favourite with the students and more often than not one of the reasons why they chose this course in the first place.

Since the beginning of the course in 1999, the Centre has established a broad and reliable network of placement providers from many different sectors of British society located all over the British Isles. Among these are MPs, MSPs, the National Trust, Pearson plc., Cheltenham Festivals, and the British Council, to name but a few.

After all these years of digital communication, the Centre invited some of its long-standing contacts to Berlin to get to know the Centre and staff, meet prospective interns and discuss future co-operation. So, on 24-25 May 2012, we had the pleasure of welcoming Jennifer Crisp from Birmingham City Council, Amelia Foster from the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, Jenny Porter from Metal Culture, Ben Bradshaw MP from the House of Commons, Pete Cannell from the Open University Scotland, George Dalgliesh from the National Museums of Scotland, and Peter Kelly from the Poverty Alliance.



Placement providers meet former and future interns

During the initial get-together, Gesa Stedman told our guests about the Masters course and about recent changes which also affect the internship scheme. The fact that quite a few of our students now spend 6 months in the UK (on the 120 ECTS M.B.S.) rather than the previous 3 (on the 90 ECTS M.B.S.) does change

the nature of their work with the placement provider. If they stay twice as long they may need a different kind of supervision and different tasks and assignments, they often become more involved, know their way around better and thus can be trusted with more complex and more responsible projects.

Paul Curtis, an M.B.S. student, then offered our guests a guided tour through the Centre of Berlin, and afterwards alumni and current students, staff and guests came together for a reception. People exchanged reminiscences of former internships, the new students got to know their prospective internship supervisors (and vice versa), and everyone enjoyed the Berlin summer evening which ended with a visit to the Reichstag dome.



Sunset over Berlin

The next day saw a panel discussion with the current M.B.S. students who had questions concerning British employers' expectations in general and their own internship prospects in particular. After lunch, the placement providers divided into three groups to exchange experiences and information about event management and fundraising with cultural managers from the city of Berlin; museums and education with a PR team from the Jewish Museum Berlin; and higher education policies with representatives from the Humboldt-Universität. The conference finished off with a small tour of the university's main building at "Unter den Linden".



At the end of the day, our guests got to know the Centre even better. They gained a clearer understanding of how the internship fits into the M.B.S. schedule and what the students might need in terms of a learning experience. Meeting the students certainly was a highlight. It was particularly helpful for everyone involved to see who else is on the scheme and maybe even find possible fields of co-operation between the different institutions or with similar institutions in Berlin. And finally, our guests enjoyed their Berlin experience – which we hoped they would do as we also wanted to thank them for their long-standing support of our internship scheme.

The event was kindly supported by  
the HU International Office and the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*.

## Current Research Projects

### Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

#### Existing EC Private Law

Prof Gerhard Dannemann is one of the founding members of the European Research Group on EC Private Law (Acquis Group). Founded in 2002, this Group currently consists of some 50 legal scholars from some 20 EU member states. The Acquis Group aims to achieve a systematic arrangement of what already exists in Community law in the area of private law. The Acquis Group bases its work on this *acquis communautaire* of private law rules and aims to distill from this principles and rules which will help to define the common structures of an emerging Community private law. Within this group, Prof Dannemann heads both the Redaction Committee and the Terminology Group.



#### Plagiarism

Prof Gerhard Dannemann is an active contributor and administrator of VroniPlag Wiki, which documents cases of plagiarism in doctoral theses. He organised a workshop on plagiarism research, held at the Centre on 25 April, which was attended by academics and (other) VroniPlag or GuttenPlag Wiki activists. He was invited by the magazine *Forschung und Lehre* to argue the case against time-limits on plagiarism investigations. He also gave numerous interviews on plagiarism and appeared on TV and radio programmes (see page 56).

#### Further Activities

Chaired a meeting of the Acquis Group's Terminology Group, 9-11 February, London. \* Presented a paper on "Comparisons with Book VII of the Draft Common Frame of Reference" at a conference on 'The Restatement Third, Restitution and Unjust Enrichment', held at Brasenose College, Oxford, 26-27 May. \* Attended the Redaction Meeting of the CFR Context Project, 28 May to 1 June, Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford. \* Accepted the Wikimedia Foundation's Zedler Prize for free knowledge for the knowledge project of the year 2011 on behalf of VroniPlag Wiki, together with Tim Bartel of wikia.com, Berlin, 1 July. \* Chaired a session of a conference on insolvency law, organized by the HU's Institute of Notary Law, 6 September, Berlin. \* Gave a paper on "The proposed Common European Sales Law and its interaction with English and German Law" at the Annual Conference of the Society of Legal Scholars, 11-14 September, Bristol. \* Evaluated the European Tort Law Institute, Vienna, on behalf of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (date of visit 14

November). \* Attended a conference on 'Legal Costs for Acquiring Real Property: an International Comparison', organized by the HU's Institute of Notary Law, 16 November, Berlin. \* Presented a paper on "System Neutrality in Legal Translation", at a conference on 'Pragmatic Issues in Legal Translation: From the Different Language Versions of the DCFR to the CESL Proposal' co-organised by the Centre for Comparative and Transnational Law and the Faculty of Law, University of Torino, 30 November - 1 December.

## Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

In 2012 Prof Christiane Eisenberg revised her book *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009) for a translation into English and continued writing a monograph on "Sport in a Society of Nation States" – a subject that is being examined from British, European and global perspectives.

In addition, Prof Eisenberg allowed herself broad reading on the effects of transferring market structures into popular culture and everyday life. In particular she tried to analyse the specific structures of competition in the economy, politics and culture and experimented with applying these findings to her work as a social and economic historian.

## Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Prof Gesa Stedman has continued her research on cultural exchange and has finished her book entitled *Cultural Exchange in Seventeenth-Century France and England*, which will be published by Ashgate in early 2013. The new cultural exchange-studies project which she heads together with Dr Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford), "Writing 1900: Turn-of-the Century European

Literary and Cultural History: A New Approach" has grown into a European-wide research network whose members attended two conferences, one in Siggen in April 2012, and one in Berlin in October 2012.



Prof Stedman has followed up her own project on English writers and mediators in Berlin and Germany, and is preparing a volume together with Stefano Evangelista.

### Cooperation with the HU English Department

In 2012 a joint Interdepartmental Colloquium was organised again.

### Visiting Prof Dr Steven Truxal

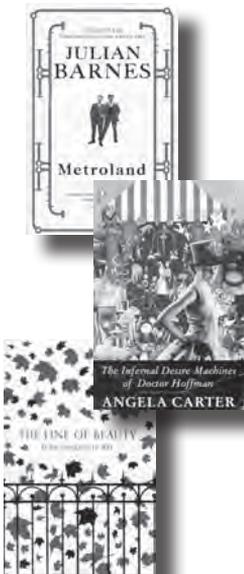
Dr Steven Truxal researches in aviation and commercial law. In April 2012, Steven published a monograph, *Competition and Regulation in the Airline Industry: Puppets in Chaos*, with Routledge (Taylor & Francis). The book examines how, in spite of complex competitive markets and restrictive regulations, certain airlines in the US and Europe are able to utilise the law on liberalisation and deregulation to achieve a commercial advantage – through integrated business strategies or by adopting a low-cost model. Steven has one forthcoming publication in *Market Instruments* (Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Madrid) entitled, 'Evaluating three levels of environmental taxation in aviation: Global limitation, EU determination and UK self-interest', and continues leading a research project on air cargo cartels.

### Dr Georgia Christinidis

Dr Georgia Christinidis is researching the development of the British *Bildungsroman* since 1979 for her *Habilitation*-project. She spent some time in the Bodleian Library on research leave during the summer and presented her findings at a conference on 'The Institution of Literature' at the University of Göttingen at the end of August. She has also continued to conduct research on the crisis of the humanities in cooperation with Dr Heather Ellis. Georgia and Heather have jointly edited a special issue of the *Journal of the Knowledge Economy* on this topic, due to be published in March 2013. They are also preparing to organise a further conference on transnational research policy and its impact on the humanities in 2013, with a view of establishing a research network.

### Presentations at Other Conferences

Gave a paper on "Authenticity and the margins in Andrea Levy's *Fruit of the Lemon*" at the conference 'Twenty-first century fiction: a symposium', Birkbeck College, London, 11-12 May.



## Dr Heather Ellis

Dr Heather Ellis is currently working on the research for her *Habilitation* and second book, *Men of Reason: Masculinity and Science in Britain, 1831-1939*, which is under contract with Palgrave Macmillan to be published as part of the series 'Genders and Sexualities in History'. The book focuses on the British Association for the Advancement of Science and considers in particular, the origins and development of modern science as an inherently gendered discourse, as well as the emergence of the male scientist as a paragon of authoritative masculinity in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is also collaborating with colleagues on a number of other research projects including a comparative study of notions of juvenile delinquency in East and West (with Lily Chang, Oxford), Anglo-German scholarly networks in the long nineteenth century (with Ulrike Kirchberger, Bayreuth) and the socializing role of the humanities in historical perspective (with Georgia Christinidis, GBZ).

## Dr Erik Spindler

Most of Dr Erik Spindler's time this year was dedicated to continuing work on his book, *Immigrants from the Low Countries in England, 1350-1500*. Aside from reading and writing, he spent a significant amount of time in archives, including a whole month in Dutch archives and several weeks in English archives. Dr Spindler was very impressed by Dutch municipal archives: all the ones he visited were extremely accessible, well-catalogued and staffed by extraordinarily helpful archivists. Dr Spindler was looking for medieval emigrants and immigrants by day and met modern migrants in the evenings. After a month of 'couchsurfing', he now feels qualified as a relationship counsellor. He also attended several interesting and unusual conferences this year, including the



very stimulating and enjoyable 'Siggenger Zeit' described more fully elsewhere in this volume. At a conference in Heidelberg in September, he delivered a paper in three minutes (rather than the more usual twenty) and presented his research in poster format. He thinks the person who said "it's a shame you didn't become a graphic designer" was trying to pay him a compliment.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Research Project

#### **The Common Frame of Reference for European Contract Law and its Interaction with English and German Law**

In 2009, the Centre and the Institute of European and Comparative Law at the University of Oxford were awarded a joint funding grant from Britain's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the German Research Council (DFG) to investigate proposals for a common European contract law as detailed in the Draft Common Frame of Reference of European Private Law (DCFR, 2009) and how these would interact with English and German law.

The project was led by the centre's Prof Gerhard Dannemann and by Prof Stefan Vogenauer at the University of Oxford. It allowed each university to take on one additional staff member: Christopher Schuller in Berlin and Dr Caroline Harvey in Oxford. Some 40 academics, mostly from Britain and Germany, contributed: a mixture of junior and senior researchers, of common-law and civil-law backgrounds, and of persons who had been closely involved in the formulation of the DCFR (as Prof Dannemann) and those who had observed a critical distance (as Prof Vogenauer).

From the beginning, the planned output of the project was twofold: (1) a book consisting of chapters co-authored by one English (or Scottish) and one German lawyer, each discussing a different aspect of contract law covered by the various European proposals and its interaction with English and German law, and (2) a database of academic writing, legislative and other materials that will be open to the public as a reference resource.

The project kicked off in earnest with a conference at the Centre in January 2010. The participants met in plenary sessions to discuss the scope, coverage and goals of the project, and had the first meetings as author teams to begin working out the structure of their chapters. They were also treated to a tour of the German parliament and a dinner of the English national cuisine (curry) at Prof Dannemann's home.

Over the course of 2010, the database came into beta testing and the project authors morphed chapter outlines into rough drafts, often at bilateral meetings in their home universities arranged by the GBZ and financed by our travel grant.

The second project conference was held at Trinity College, Oxford, in January 2011 to exchange the re-

A hearing of the Court of Justice:  
Chamber of five Judges

Source: Court of Justice of the EU



sults of the first drafts and to discuss the impact of the ongoing political developments at the European level: the European Commission had set up an Expert Group (including project contributor Professor Beale) to prepare a Feasibility Study on the basis of the DCFR, which would thus become another target for our research when eventually published in May 2011. Here, though, as in Berlin, time was taken for an afternoon activity – a tour of the old Bodleian Library – and for formal dinners at Trinity and Lincoln colleges.

The public database launched in Spring 2011, built by project contributor Dr Kasper Steensgaard and maintained by GBZ student assistant Arne Gutsche. It can be accessed at <http://cfr.iuscomp.org> and will remain online as the project's second main legacy.

The final project conference was held in Berlin in September 2011. At this time, the political decision had been taken that the Feasibility Study would become the basis for a European Commission Proposal for a Common European Sales Law, which was published one month after the conference, allowing authors to adjust their manuscript to this new target just before their deadline for submission at the end of December 2011. Over the course of a long but productive conference, participants dodged the Berlin Marathon and a simultaneous state visit by the Pope to take a tour of the Berlin Court of Appeal.

2012 saw a busy phase of editing – for content, on the part of Profs Dannemann and Vogenauer, and for style on the part of Christopher Schuller and Dr Caroline Harvey. The hard work of revising and reworking the chapters spanned the spring (including an editorial meeting in Oxford in May 2012) and summer, with feedback constantly flowing between editors and authors. In late summer, the final touches were put on the manuscript, and the book was submitted to Oxford University Press on October 1. It will be published in March 2013 under the title “The Common European Sales Law in Context: Interactions with English and German Law”, just in time to influence the legislative process at the European Union which is currently at the first reading stage.

The project leadership would like to thank the staff members who supported the work: Caroline Harvey, Christopher Schuller, Kasper Steensgaard, and Arne Gutsche, as well as all of the authors who contributed to the project. Despite spending most of the project time researching a moving target, we have delivered a timely, comprehensive, and thoughtful reaction to what could be a major development for European law, and brought the Centre's largest-ever research project to a successful conclusion.



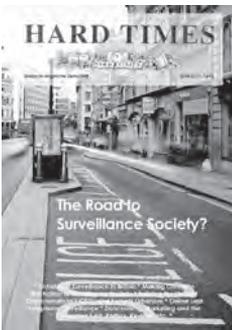
## Jens Ennen

Jens Ennen is currently doing research on the role of Human Resource Management (HRM) techniques in British and German Universities. Reform movements within institutions of higher education are put in the context of wider changes of the public sector. The perception that public institutions did not fulfil societies' needs and did not use resources efficiently has motivated policymakers to modernise the public sector along principles of 'New Public Management' (NPM). Universities in the UK have been changing along the NPM paradigm for a longer time than their German counterparts. The question arises which implications such changes have for teaching and research. Reform components that may have been omitted or unfeasible in one country may have had beneficial or adverse effects in another. Furthermore, Jens scrutinises side-effects, feedback loops, and unintended consequences.

## Sandra Müller

Sandra Müller focused her research efforts on the finalization of her PhD thesis on "Cultural Exchange in Contemporary British-Asian Novels". In this project, she combines cultural exchange theory with narratological categories with a context-oriented outlook. Sandra analyses the aesthetic means, plot patterns as well as the effect of such representations. She also pays particular attention to the histories of production and reception of the selected novels, including the marketing strategies of the respective publishers.

Sandra continued to work for the German-English magazine *Hard Times*. She supported the editors and finished the layout for printing. In addition, Sandra attended a conference on "What Would Dickens Write Today?" organised by the British Council (Berlin, 26-28 January), where participants and authors such as Claire Tomalin, David Nicholls, John Burnside, Denise Mina and A.S. Byatt discussed Dickens' impact on contemporary authors and readers as well as questions such as how Dickens would contribute to the literary field if he were still alive today. Sandra also participated in the Arbeitskreis Cultural Studies in Berlin (14 January) and in Hanover (23 June). In November, Sandra attended a conference on "Britain's Academic Relationship with the Continent in Challenging Times" organised by the DAAD London and the Cultural Department of the French Embassy in London (22 November).



## Christopher Schuller

Christopher Schuller's research activity this year was largely focused on the completion of the joint CESL project with the University of Oxford, for which he co-authored the chapter on Obligations of Sellers and Buyers with Alexander Zenefels of the University of Bayreuth. In addition, Oxford University Press published his translation of "Rescuing Companies in England and Germany", a comparative corporate insolvency study by Prof Dr Reinhard Bork of the University of Hamburg.

He also represented the Centre at conferences hosted by the Gesellschaft Junger Zivilrechtswissenschaftler and at a number of bilateral meetings under the auspices of the CFR project in Oxford.

Apart from his research activities, he also prepared for and sat the New York Bar Examination, and was sworn into the New York bar in June 2012.

## Visiting Researchers

Prof Patricia Springborg

(Oct 2011-Sep 2012)

School of Economics, Free University of Bolzano, Italy.

Daphné Bolz

(Nov 2012-Feb 2013)

Sciences du Sport et Education Physique, Université de Rouen, funded by the DAAD.

## External Doctoral Students

### Culture and Literature Department

Jessica Fischer

is writing a thesis on novels published after 9/11.

Veronika Schmideder

Veronika Schmideder, an M.B.S. graduate (2008), successfully passed her viva in the summer 2012. The title of the PhD thesis is "Living Belfast: Representations of the City in Glenn Patterson's Novels."

## Law Department

Veronika Efremova

is writing a PhD thesis on "The effects of consumer protection policy in Western Balkan countries on succeeding economic growth, competitive markets and consumer's welfare".

Robert Ficht

is writing a PhD thesis on "Policing of unfair contract terms in business contracts under English and German law".

Inessa Ghukeyan

is writing a PhD thesis on "Public domain works in the conflict of laws: a comparison between German, Swiss and Russian law".

Zoé Jacquemin

is writing a PhD thesis on "*La responsabilité contractuelle en droit privé européen*".

Maik Martin

is writing a PhD thesis on "Public Inquiries: *Anatomie einer Common Law-Institution*".

Jana Siebeck

is writing a PhD thesis on "*Vollmacht auf Rechtsscheinbasis. Deutsches und englisches Recht im Vergleich*".

Arne Gutsche

started to write a PhD thesis on "Conceptions of Contract as a Question of National Identity" (working title).

## History Department

Firas Amr

is writing a thesis on "*Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Propaganda. Ein Vergleich des deutschen und britischen Umgangs mit Feindbildern im Zweiten Weltkrieg*" (working title).

Sam Noble

is writing a PhD thesis on "Representations of Radical and Conservative thought in Eighteenth Century British Pictorial Satire" (working title).

Stephan Schwanke

is writing a PhD thesis on "Endless Leisure? Australian Surf Culture from 1945 Onwards".

## Publications

**DANNEMANN, G.** "Chapters 12 (The buyer's obligations, Arts 123-130) and 13 (The seller's remedies, Arts 131-139)." *Common European Sales Law (CESL) - Commentary*. Ed. Reiner Schulze. München: C.H.Beck; Oxford: Hart; Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2012. 533-601.

---. "In search of system neutrality: methodological issues in the drafting of European contract law rules." *Practice and Theory in Comparative Law*. Eds. Maurice Adams and Jacco Bomhoff. Cambridge: CUP, 2012. 96-119.

---. "Verjährungsfrist für Plagiatsvergehen? Contra." *Forschung und Lehre* (2012): 551 (also published in *Spiegel Online*, 16 July 2012, with a different heading and summary provided by the editors).

---. "Le cadre général de la responsabilité civile: point de vue extérieur." *Le droit français de la responsabilité civile confronté aux projets européens d'harmonisation. Recueil des travaux du Groupe de Recherche Européen sur la Responsabilité Civile et l'Assurance (GRERCA)*. Paris: IRJS Éditions, 2012. 763-768.

---. "Is Unjust Enrichment Law an Officious Intermeddler?" *Boston University Law Review* 93 (2012): 991-1008.

---. "The Working Method of the Acquis Group - A Model?" *Common Principles of European Intellectual Property Law*. Ed. Ansgar Ohly. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012. 15-29.

---. "Contracts and other Juridical Acts in the DCFR." *The Draft Common Frame of Reference: national and comparative perspectives*. Eds. Vincent Sagaert, Matthias Storme and Evelyne Terryn. Cambridge: Intersentia, 2012. 9-20.

---. Rev. of *Gifts. A Study in Comparative Law*, by Richard Hyland. Oxford: 2009. *Rebels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht* 76 (2012). 449-453.

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

**EISENBERG, Ch.**, with A. Gestrinch, eds. *Cultural Industries in Britain and Germany. Sport, Music and Entertainment from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century*. Augsburg: WiBner, 2012.

--- with A. Gestrinch. "Cultural Industries as a Field of Historical Research: Approaches, Analytical Dimensions, Long-Term Perspectives." *Cultural Industries in Britain and Germany. Sport, Music*



and Entertainment from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century. Eds. Ch. Eisenberg and A. Gestrich. Augsburg: Wißner, 2012. 3-22.

---. "The Finitude of Sports Performances and the Infinite Number of Reproducible Images. A Case Study on Sporting Heroes in Twentieth-Century Germany." *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 29 (2012): 832-849. <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2011.638422>>.

---. "Wie olympisch sind die Olympischen Spiele?" *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* 168, 21 July 2012: Z1-Z2.

---. "Commentary on Hans Langenfeld, 'Sportangebot und -nachfrage in Städten.'" *Impulse für die Sportgeschichte. Zum 80. Geburtstag von Hans Langenfeld*. Eds. Michael Krüger and Josef Ulkotte. Hildesheim: arete, 2012. 306-310.



**STEDMAN, G.** "Middlemarch It Ain't: Winifred Holtby's South Riding." *Hard Times* 91 (2012): 61-64.

---. "News from the Literary Field." *Hard Times* 92 (2012): 80-82.

---. Rev. of *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*, by Hilary Mantel. *Hard Times* 92 (2012): 82-83.

**TRUXAL, S.** *Competition and Regulation in the Airline Industry: Puppets in Chaos*. Research in Competition Law Series. Routledge: Taylor & Francis, 2012.

---, and R. DUNBAR. "Evaluating three levels of environmental taxation in aviation: Global limitation, EU determination and UK self-interest". *Market Instruments* (Instituto de Estudios Fiscales, Madrid, 2012): 265-279.



**CHRISTINIDIS, G.** "Radical Transformation: Angela Carter's Adaptation of the Bildungsroman." *Textual Practice* 26.3 (2012): 467-487.

---. Rev. of *Evading Class in Contemporary British Literature*, by Lawrence Driscoll. *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* 18.2 (2011): 189-191.

**ELLIS, H.** *Generational Conflict and University Reform: Oxford in the Age of Revolution*. New York and Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2012. 257 pages.

---. "Elite Education and the Development of Mass Elementary Schooling in England, 1870-1930" *Mass Education and the Limits*

of *State Building, c. 1870-1930*. Eds. L. Brockliss and N. Sheldon. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. 46-70.

---. "Efficiency and Counter-Revolution: Connecting University and Civil Service Reform in the 1850s." *History of Education: Journal of the History of Education Society*, iFirst Article (September 2012): 1-22.

---. "Reconciling Classical and Christian Culture: Marcus Aurelius and his Meditations in Victorian Scholarship." *New Voices in Classical Reception Studies* 7 (2012): 1-12.

---. "National and Transnational Spaces: Academic Networks and Scholarly Transfer between Britain and Germany in the Nineteenth Century." *The Nation State and Beyond: Governing Globalization Processes in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*. Eds. I. Löhr and R. Wenzlhuemer. Heidelberg: Springer, 2012. 127-148

--- ed. "Juvenile Delinquency and the State: Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Perspectives." *A special issue of Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict and World Order* 40.4 (2012).

---. "Guest Editor's Introduction: Juvenile Delinquency and the State." *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict and World Order* 40.4 (2012).

**RÜCKER, Ch.** Rev. of *The Sense of an Ending*, by Julian Barnes. *Hard Times* 92 (2012): 76-79.

**SMITH, C.** "'South Asians Making Britain, 1858-1950' – An Exhibition Report." *Hard Times* 91 (2012): 65-67.

**SPINDLER, E.** "Flemings in the Peasants' Revolt, 1381." *Contact and Exchange in Later Medieval Europe: Essays in Honour of Malcolm Vale*. Eds. H. Skoda, P. Lantschner and R.L.J. Shaw. Woodbridge: Boydell, 2012. 59-78.

**SPRINGBORG, P.** "Calvin and Hobbes: a Reply to Curley, Martinich and Wright." *Philosophical Readings*. Online Journal, special issue on Hobbes and Religion, ed. M. Sgarbi (June 2012): 1-17.

---. "Reply to Martinich on Hobbes's English Calvinism." *Philosophical Readings*. Online Journal, special issue on Hobbes and Religion, ed. M. Sgarbi (June 2012): 31-41.

---. "Hobbes's Challenge to Descartes, Bramhall and Boyle: A Corporeal God." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 20.4 (2012): 903-34.

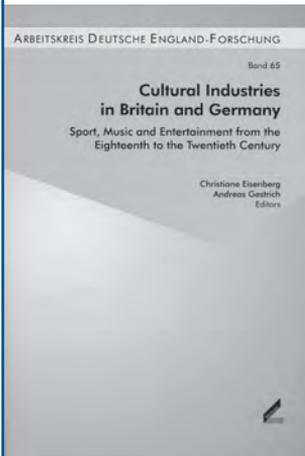
## SPOTLIGHT

### Current Publications

#### **Cultural Industries in Britain and Germany. Sport, Music and Entertainment from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century**

by Christiane Eisenberg and Andreas Gestrich (eds), Augsburg: Wißner-Verlag, 2012

The essays in this volume deal with entertainment offered by theatre and concert organisers, record and film companies and sports organisations as commercial activities. Over time traditionally dominant suppliers such as courts, churches, the nobility, political parties and urban authorities lost their influence and had to content themselves with exerting only a marginal influence on what was on offer in the field of culture. Today, professional bodies and other suppliers of such events work in close co-operation with the media, advertising and the consumer-goods industries; they serve a growing proportion of the demand for cultural events, which they, in turn, actively seek to increase. The authors focus on Britain from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. They draw comparisons with Germany, because this opens up the possibility of defamiliarisation – and thus control – of the British case.

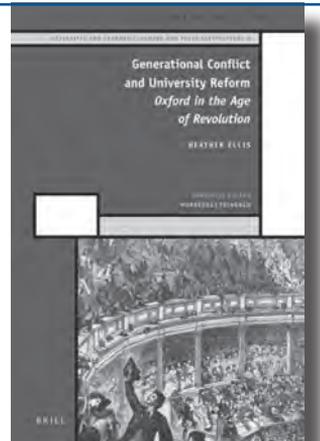


#### **Generational Conflict and University Reform: Oxford in the Age of Revolution**

by Heather Ellis, New York and Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2012

This book is the monograph version of Heather Ellis's doctoral thesis which she successfully completed at Balliol College, Oxford in 2009. The book offers a fresh interpretation of a series of ground-breaking reforms introduced at the University of Oxford in the first half of the nineteenth century. Innovations such as competitive examination, a uniform syllabus and a broad range of degree subjects are often seen as products of the reforming zeal of early nineteenth-century Britain. By contrast, this book argues that many such developments are more accurately understood as attempts by senior university members and government officials to respond to the challenge posed by a new generation of confident, politically-aware students influenced by the ideas of the American and French Revolutions. It charts the emergence of the student body as a separate interest group within

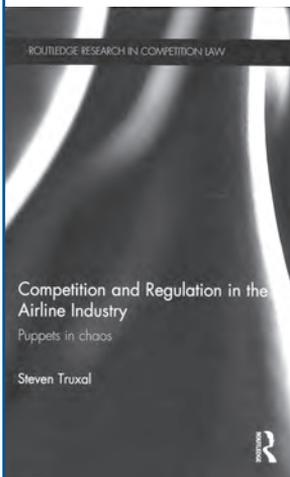
the university, capable of driving the process of reform, by clearly stating their own demands in print and articulating an increasingly coherent threat of rebellion. In addition, it maintains that this burgeoning culture of student journalism played an important role in establishing the conditions for the rise to prominence of the Oxford Movement, led by John Henry Newman, which dominated the university in the 1830s and early 1840s. Indeed, it argues that new insights are gained by viewing Tractarianism as a form of rebellious youth movement. Most importantly, it highlights the importance of generational conflict as a factor influencing the nature and course of university reform.



## Competition and Regulation in the Airline Industry: Puppets in Chaos

by Steven Truxal, Research in Competition Law Series, Routledge: Taylor & Francis, 2012

An examination of the relationship between competition and the deregulation and liberalisation of the US and European air transport sectors reveals that the structure of the air transport sector has undergone a number of significant changes. A growing number of airlines are entering into horizontal and vertical cooperative arrangements and integration including franchising, codeshare agreements, alliances, 'virtual mergers' and in some cases, mergers with other airlines, groups of airlines or other complementary lines of business such as airports. This book considers the current legal issues affecting the air transport sector incorporating recent developments in the industry, including the end of certain exemptions from EU competition rules, the effect of the EU-US Open Skies Agreement, the accession of new EU Member States and the Lisbon Treaty. The book explores the differing European and US regulatory approaches to the changes in the industry and examines how airlines have remained economically efficient in what is perceived as a complex and confused regulatory environment. Competition and Regulation in the Airline Industry will be of particular interest to academics and students of competition law as well as EU law.



## Library

The Centre's library is technically and logistically linked to the main library of Humboldt-Universität with its computerised administration system. It provides excellent working and research opportunities for students, researchers, and the general public. The library's main areas of collection are those of the relevant disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 25,960 volumes and 8,000 items of electronic material.

This year the Centre's library received a generous book donation of about 1,000 books by Dirk Hansen. These volumes are an excellent addition to the Centre's collection of literature on the architecture, history and policy of the UK.

Furthermore, the historians Prof Dr Gisela Bock (FU Berlin) and Prof Dr Volker Hunecke (TU Berlin) donated about 80 volumes to the library, which focus mainly on the history of the UK.

The Centre's library has developed into a modern research library that is continually expanding, thus offering the latest publications covering relevant subjects. This guarantees that the library presents a unique and excellent up-to-date opportunity for research in British Studies in Germany.



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

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

whilst a small reference library is available in Mohrenstraße to be used on the spot by the Centre's students and staff .

## EVENTS

### Exhibition

#### South Asians Making Britain, 1858–1950

Our very first exhibition *South Asians Making Britain, 1858–1950* took place this year and was open to the public from 30th January to 15th March. The initial major collaborative research project *Making Britain: South Asian Visions of Home and Abroad* was led by Susheila Nasta MBE FRAS, Professor of Modern Literature, English Department of The Open University.

The exhibition consisted of 11 roll banners focussing on a wide range of South Asian-British networks and exchanges. What makes this exhibition distinctive is its focus on contributions made by South Asians to British life, rather than the standard and well documented imperialist history of Britain in South Asia.

It not only includes contributions to many aspects of British life: national and global politics, domestic, cultural and intellectual life, activism, resistance and sport, but also displays the interaction of ethnic groups, social classes and gender divides before, leading up to, and shortly after independence from Britain. The exhibition, which proved to be a great source of interest to A-level school classes, academics and visitors who are generally interested in Britain and its history, will surely not be the last at the Centre.

Making Britain could not have taken place without the cooperation of The British Library and The Open University and, last but certainly not least, thank you from everyone at the Centre to the British Council, Germany for their generous support here in Berlin.

#### What is a ....?

*Shampooing surgeon*: basically a washing (shampooing) and steam treatment – this began as a novelty in 19th century Britain and was initially treated with suspicion.

*Ayah* – children's nanny

*Lascar* – a term used both to refer to men usually from South Asia employed on ships and to servants in the service of British military officers.



## Visitors at the Centre

The president of Humboldt Universität, **Prof Dr Jan-Hendrik Olbertz**, accompanied by vice president **Dr Marina Frost** were the first of a group of distinguished visitors who came to the Centre in 2012 to meet the students, find out about the Centre's research output, its public lectures and events, and the Master in British Studies.



Prof Olbertz and Dr Frost talking to M.B.S. students.

**Andrew Noble**, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Section Political Affairs at the British Embassy in Berlin, visited the Centre and discussed the role of academics for Anglo-German relations.



Andrew Noble and GBZ staff discussing future co-operation projects.

**Carsten Rüpke**, from the German foreign office, and inter alia responsible for the UK, exchanged views on a regular basis with the Centre's professors, seeking their opinions on current Anglo-German, and Anglo-European political developments.

In March, **William Gatward**, Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the British Embassy, visited the Centre to talk about possible future cooperation. As one of the results, the Embassy provided some material and information for the exhibition about the Olympics and Paralympics shown at the student project in June.

## Keynote Lecture

### Poetics of Crossing: The Zigzag Lines of Late Nineteenth-Century Indian Migration to Britain

Elleke Boehmer

Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Wolfson College

29 October

Prof Elleke Boehmer set off to question stereotypical representations of Anglo-Indian relations that often ran along the lines of colonial hierarchies. In her lecture she examined three late 19th-century Indian-British friendship pairings: Yeats and Chatterjee, Ghose and Binyon, and Gosse and Toru Dutt. Referring to their friendships, letters and works, Elleke Boehmer claimed that these encounters happened on a level playing field, not least because of their shared (upper) class backgrounds. The medium of lyric poetry allowed both sides to express their intercultural interests in ways that ran against the dichotomous tendencies of colonial encounters and their representations.

The Keynote Lecture took place in the Grimm-Zentrum of Humboldt Universität and was organised with the generous support of *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*.

Prof Boehmer is an internationally renowned expert of postcolonial theory and writing, and holds the chair of Professor of World Literature in English. Her research focuses on colonial and post-colonial literature, imperial history, and histories of empire. She is Professor of World Literature in English and Deputy Director of the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing at Wolfson College.



Below: the Centre's director, Prof Stedman, introduces this year's keynote speaker Prof Elleke Boehmer (left).



## Monday Lectures

### Drawing Conclusions: Visual Satire in Britain

Martin Rowson

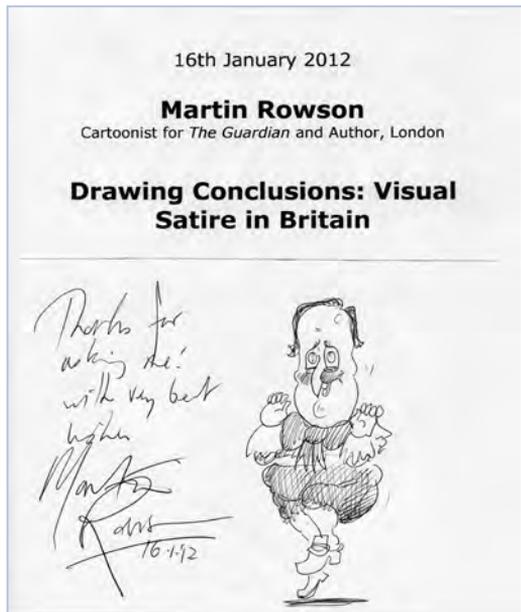
Cartoonist for *The Guardian* and Author, London

16 January



This lecture was extremely well received and left the 94 people in the audience rolling on the floor, laughing. Martin Rowson explored the origins of visual satire from pre-history to today – and how it established itself as an entrenched part of the British Political landscape in the 18th century, “leading to over 300 years of uninterrupted mockery of Britain’s leaders.” (MR) Neither Tony Blair nor the current coalition government were spared. The lecture was funny, but also very instructive. Rowson emphasized that cartoons are always representations, filtered through the artist’s mind. And that cartoons can only offend those who choose to be offended.

Martin Rowson is an award winning cartoonist and writer whose work appears regularly in *The Guardian*, *The Independent on Sunday*, *The Daily Mirror*, *Index on Censorship* and many other publications. His books include graphic novelisations of *The Waste Land*, *Tristram Shandy* (recently translated into German) and *Gulliver’s Travels*.



Extract from the Centre’s guest book: our own Rowson cartoon!

## The Ground-Zero of Politics: Musings on the Post-Political Polis

Prof Erik Swyngedouw

Professor of Geography, University of Manchester

30 January

The city has undergone radical change over the past two decades or so, most dramatically in its modes of urban governing and polic(y)ing. Prof Erik Swyngedouw argued that new forms of neo-liberal urban governance in fact annul democracy: while promising equality, they produce instituted forms of governing in which political power seamlessly fuses with economic might. In his talk, Erik Swyngedouw criticised that governance arrangements shape the city according to the dreams, tastes and needs of the transnational economic, political, and cultural elites. He suggested alternative urban politics that foster dissent and trigger the experimentation with more egalitarian and inclusive urban futures.

Erik Swyngedouw is professor of geography at the University of Manchester, where he moved to from St Peter's College, Oxford. His research interests revolve around two main issues: political ecology (with a particular emphasis on the governance, politics and economics of water resources), and geographical political economy, paying particular attention to the articulation between local/regional and national/transnational processes.

The lecture can be listened to at <http://tonargumente.org/tag/centre-for-british-studies/>



## Sea Power vs. Land Power: the Geopolitics of Germany's Defeat in the First World War

Prof Hew Strachan

Chichele Professor of the History of War, All Souls College, Faculty of History, University of Oxford

10 May

In the Great War, maritime power proved vital to victory, enabling Britain to be the arsenal and financier of its allies, and also enabling the United States to be a key player in the war's outcome. Hew Strachan argued in his lecture that Germany's geopolitical position was not weak because it was overshadowed by Russia, but because it was blockaded by sea. In his talk he explained why geopolitics were and are vital to understanding the war's outcome.

Prof Hew Strachan has been Chichele Professor of the History of War and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford since 2002. He is also Director of the Oxford Programme on the Changing Character of War and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Strachan taught at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and holds positions at the Defence Staff's Strategic Advisory Panel, the Defence Academy Advisory Board, and the Imperial War Museum.

This lecture was organised together with the British Scholar Society.



## The Euro and the Future of the Euro

John Peet

*The Economist*

12 June

John Peet, Europe editor of *The Economist* since 2003, explained various possible scenarios in relation to the euro crisis. What could happen if Greece was to leave the euro Zone? John Peet examined some of the approaches that were discussed by politicians and economists to promote growth and stability. Budgetary austerity and the European Stability Mechanism, he argued, might not do the trick alone. One possible implication – a much tighter political union with more constraints on national governments, especially on fiscal policy – might split the EU into core and peripheral members. This way, the euro crisis could also have a negative effect on Britain's relationship with Germany and the EU. The lecture provided a good summary of the current situation and interesting insights into possible scenarios.

This lecture was organised in co-operation with the *Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft*.



## Slavery, Abolition and Post-Emancipation in Contemporary British Literature

Prof Jana Gohrisch

English Department, Leibniz Universität Hannover

2 July

Prof Jana Gohrisch's lecture focused on literary representations of slavery, abolition and post-emancipation. The talk provided a historical context, categories of analysis as well as some hands-on examples of literary analysis and contextualization. The poems "The Sea is History" by Derek Walcott and "One Continent/ to Another" by Grace Nichols were read and scrutinized. The two novels *Cambridge* by Caryl Phillips and *The Long Song* by Andrea Levy were also covered. In her lecture, Jana Gohrisch observed a tendency towards a more humorous take on slavery and abolition, not always to the benefit of the quality of the representations. Prof Gohrisch teaches British Studies at the Leibniz University of Hanover. Her main focus is on literature and culture from the 18th through to the 21st century, including the new literatures in English. She is a board member of the research programme "Transformation Studies" in which she examines Anglophone Caribbean literature between post-emancipation and post-colonialism.



## Public Relations



The Centre published its Monday Lecture announcements and other event notifications in local newspapers and across its networks, where possible in cooperation with the HU press department. Journalists continued to interview current and former staff as experts on the UK as well as their respective research fields.

Prof Dannemann was interviewed many times about plagiarism, in particular about the standards of good academic practice, and the cases of the German Secretary of State for Education Annette Schavan and others. These interviews were published on TV, in print media and on the radio. The BBC (World Service) asked Prof Dannemann to take part in a radio broadcast on "Germany: wiki and plagiarism" (19 June). *Focus*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Bayerischer Rundfunk, NDR, HR, Deutsche Welle, the magazine *Forschung & Lehre* (Germany's largest journal on higher education politics) were among the other interviewers.



Prof Dannemann was also asked to comment on the current crisis of the BBC (Deutsche Welle, 12 November) as well as on British politics in relation to Europe (*The European Circle*, 16 May).

Guest lecturer Bernd Becker was invited to comment on the Diamond Jubilee on Phoenix (June). Prof Eisenberg published an article on the Olympic Games in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (21 July) and Prof Stedman was interviewed by Deutschlandradio (*Kalenderblatt*) in the context of the jubilee at Buckingham Palace (13 July).

Prof Schlaeger gave a wide-ranging interview to the Deutsche Welle World on the development of Anglo-German relationships in the last decades (31 January). He was also asked about the present EU crisis and the role of German-British relationships in it for *Reuters/Guardian* (6 November).

The "Zedler-Preis für das Externe Wissensprojekt des Jahres 2012" was awarded to VroniPlag Wiki. Prof Dannemann has been engaged in this project since 2011 and received the award together with Tim Bartel from wikia.com.



The Centre presented the M.B.S. at the 'Master and More' fair in Berlin on 6 December. How many of the 1.900 visitors will apply for the M.B.S. 2013-2015 remains to be seen.

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

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

## FELLOWS

### Honorary Fellows

The Right Honourable Ben Bradshaw,  
Member of Parliament for Exeter

Prof Dr Ulrich Broich, OBE

Sir Christopher Mallaby, GCMG, GCVO

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA

### Fellows

Dr Bernd Becker

Prof Paul Carmichael

Andy Feist

Dr Hugh Mackay

Dr Gerry Mooney

Lynn Parkinson

Dr Pikay Richardson

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB

PD Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer



From left:  
Jürgen Schlaeger,  
Gerry Mooney,  
Hugh Mackay

## STAFF

### Academic Staff

#### Director

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

Prof 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 and was appointed Professor of British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in 2008. She is a co-editor of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* and chief co-editor of the Anglo-German magazine *Hard Times*. 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. She is a member of the jury for the Humboldt Prize and acts as deputy head of the Committee for a Family-Friendly University at Humboldt Universität.

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

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, and Deputy Director of the Centre. Studied law at Freiburg i.Br. and Bonn. Taught German and English law at Freiburg (Assistant Lecturer 1988-91), at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law Fellow in German Law) 1991-94, at University College London (Visiting Lecturer, then Lecturer) 1992-95, and at the University of Oxford 1995-2002 (University Lecturer, then Reader in Comparative Law), where he was also a Fellow of Worcester College from 1995-2002. Dr jur. Freiburg i.Br. 1994, 'Habilitation' Freiburg i.Br. 2002. Joined the Centre for British Studies in 2003. Has published widely, in particular on the English and German legal systems, contract, tort, unjust enrichment, and private international law. Founder and general editor of the Oxford University Comparative Law Forum and the German Law Archive, founding

member of the Acquis Group (European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law), chair of the Group's Redaction Committee and Terminology Group, Research Fellow of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford. On the M.B.S. programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches 'Constitutional Law and the Political System'. He was on research leave from October 2011 until September 2012 and has been Deputy Director of the Centre and Dean of Studies since October 2012.

### **Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg**

Professor for British History. She studied history and social sciences at Bielefeld University, where she obtained a Dr phil. in 1986. After working as a research associate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld in 1986-87 and holding a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, in 1987-88, she became assistant professor at the History Faculty of the University of Hamburg where she completed her '*Habilitation*' in 1996. She deputised for the Social History Chair at the University of Bielefeld, worked in the research unit *Gesellschaftsvergleich* at Humboldt's history department, and joined the Centre for British Studies in October 1998. She has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich* (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009). Professor Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In 2012 she was re-elected as a vice-chairwoman of the *Arbeitskreis Deutsche England-Forschung* (German Association for the Study of British History of Politics). She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the German Historical Institute, London, and a liaison professor (*Vertrauensdozentin*) of the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*.

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

Senior Professor of British Literature and Culture. Studied History, Philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford. He was professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Konstanz from 1976-95, and visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, at Fudan University, Shanghai and also Visiting Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was dean and pro-vice-chancellor at Konstanz

and Chairman of the German Association of University Teachers of English, board member of the European Society of English Studies, and chair of the Shakespeare-Prize *Kuratorium* of the *Alfred Toepfer Stiftung* in Hamburg. He is now chairman of its board. 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.

### **Visiting Professor Dr Steven Truxal**

Visiting Professor of English Law and Dean of Studies. Replaced Prof Dannemann during his research sabbatical from October 2011 to September 2012. Studied international affairs and economics at George Washington University before reading law and completing the doctorate at University of Westminster. Lectured across a range of English foundation subjects and international commercial law at Kingston University (2008-11), University of Westminster (2005-11) and University of Surrey (2011). Gave seminars at Universität Mannheim (2010, 2012), Universidad de Deusto – Bilbao (2009) and Hanzehogeschool Groningen (2008). Has published in competition and environmental regulation of air transport at UK and EU levels and through international organisations. Member of the Society of Legal Scholars and the London Universities Maritime Law and Policy Group. Fellow of the UK Higher Education Authority. Before returning to the UK in October 2012 to take up a Lectureship at The City Law School, Steven taught 'Contract Law', 'Law of Tort', and 'Consumerism in Britain' on the M.B.S. programme. Steven returned as a Guest Lecturer in November 2012 to teach 'Contemporary Britain: Olympified Britain'.

### **Dr Georgia Christinidis**

Lecturer and researcher in Literary and Cultural Studies. Studied English, German, and Spanish Literature in Konstanz, Freiburg, and Oxford. Obtained both her Masters degree and her doctorate from the University of Oxford, supported by scholarships from the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Her doctoral dissertation investigated "The Concept of Cultural Agency from Modernism to Cultural Studies." Before she joined the Centre, she taught at New College, Oxford, from 2006 until 2008. She currently teaches courses on 'Gender and Social Mobility in Life-writing Texts,' 'The 2011 Riots: Violence and Social Change,' 'British Identities,' 'Advanced Academic Writing' and 'Academic Writing' (with Jessica Fischer) on

the M.B.S. programme. Her main research interests are 20th- and 21st-century British *Bildungsromane* and the role of the university in contemporary society. She is writing a book on the British *Bildungsroman* since 1979.

### **Dr Heather Ellis, MA (Oxon)**

From November 2008 until September 2012 Heather Ellis was Lecturer and Researcher in British History at the Centre for British Studies where she taught courses in Empire and Commonwealth History, British Identities and Women and Gender in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Britain. She was also jointly responsible for the co-ordination of the MBS placement scheme and supervised a range of masters theses in British History. She successfully completed her DPhil. in Modern History at Balliol College, Oxford in 2009. Her doctoral thesis has since been published (2012) in monograph form with Brill under the title *Generational Conflict and University Reform: Oxford in the Age of Revolution*. Before this she also completed a BA (Hons.) in Ancient and Modern History and an M.Phil. in Greek and Roman History at Balliol College, Oxford. In October 2012 she took up a post as Senior Lecturer in the History of Education at Liverpool Hope University.

### **Dr Erik Spindler**

Humboldt Research Fellow in medieval history. He holds degrees in history, medieval studies and teaching from the universities of Durham, Dublin, Louvain-la-Neuve and Oxford. In his doctoral thesis (Oxford, 2008) he analysed marginal social groups in late medieval London and Bruges. He started work on migration as a postdoctoral fellow at Université Libre de Bruxelles in 2008-9 and 2009-10 and has been continuing that research at the Centre for British Studies since September 2011. In 2012, his teaching responsibilities at the Centre included 'Academic writing' (with Sandra Müller) and a workshop on 'Understanding universities'. He also has minor research interests in expatriates and in the didactics of primary sources.

### **drs. Jens Ennen, Master of Economics**

Doctorandus der Economische Wetenschappen. Lecturer and researcher in British economy. Studied International Economic Studies (IES) at the School of Business and Economics of Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Graduated in 2006 with a Master thesis on an evaluation of wage subsidy regimes in the US and in the UK. Erasmus studies at Audencia, Ecole Supérieure de

Commerce (ESC) Nantes Atlantique, France and exchange programme at the Université de Liège, Belgium. Completed a Minor in European Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University. Worked as a freelance trainer in Business and (Business) English/French in Cologne. He started working at the Centre in 2008 and teaches 'Presentation Techniques' and 'Project Management' in the winter semester. In the summer term he is responsible for the courses 'Project Management' and 'Financial Markets and International Trade'. Research interests are Economic History, Institutional Economics and Public Management. Additionally Jens works as an internship coordinator for the Centre.

### **Sandra Müller, Diplom Wirtschafts-Anglistin**

Lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. In addition, Sandra is responsible for marketing and PR at the centre. On the M.B.S. course she has taught the courses 'The Literary Field in the UK', 'The Contemporary British Novel', 'Project Management', 'Academic Writing', 'Presentation Techniques' and also gave a workshop on 'Public Relations'. This is her fifth year at the centre. Sandra studied English, Spanish, Economics and Business Studies at Justus Liebig University Gießen and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Sandra is writing her PhD thesis on "Cultural Exchange in Contemporary British-Asian Novels", a thesis in which she combines cultural exchange theory, narratological approaches and an analysis of the literary field in the UK. Sandra spent some time in Oxford and London on research leave. She completed professional training on teaching skills, media competence, conflict management, and layout skills.

### **Christopher Schuller, BA (Oxon)**

Lecturer and researcher in English Law. Read Law with German Law at Pembroke College, Oxford, and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. Winner of the Manches Family Law Prize from the Faculty of Law at Oxford in 2008. Served from 2008 to 2010 at the Faculty of Law of the Universität Osnabrück as Lecturer in English Law and Coordinator of Foreign Legal Education. At the Centre, he is the project staff member for the joint DFG-AHRC project with the University of Oxford on the Common Frame of Reference in the Context of English and German Law. He teaches 'Constitutional Law' and 'Political System' in the winter and 'Legal Theory' in the summer on the M.B.S. and continues to teach and examine English law at the Universität Osnabrück.

## Temporary Research Assistant

### Jessica Fischer, MA

Copy editor, lecturer and researcher in Literary and Cultural Studies. Studied English, History of Art, European Cultural Studies, Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Freiburg, the Freie Universität Berlin and University College London. This year she taught 'Contemporary British Literature in Context (I): The Novel', 'Contemporary British Literature in Context (II): Crime Novels', 'Intercultural Communication' and 'Research and Academic Writing' on the M.B.S. programme.

## Administrative Staff

### Catherine Smith, BA (Hons.)

Studied Humanities with the History of Art at the Open University. Catherine is foreign language secretary responsible for the director Prof Stedman. Catherine joined the Centre in March 1996 shortly after it was opened, and was secretary to Prof Schlaeger until his departure in October 2008. Apart from managing the office, she supports the Centre's teaching and research activities. Further duties include co-ordinating visiting arrangements for guests, organising conferences, seminars, meetings, events, as well as the Monday Lectures series and the Berlin-British Seminar. Catherine also co-ordinates the M.B.S. interviews, assists with the editing of research papers, the translation of German texts into English and is there to advise students.

### Corinna Radke, MA

Foreign language assistant and M.B.S. co-ordinator. Studied English and Spanish at Humboldt Universität and in Madrid, as well as passing a further education course on public administration. Apart from being busy with the Centre's daily affairs, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre's guest lecturers and organises the teaching schedule for the M.B.S. In this context, she prepares courses on the HU's e-learning platform 'Moodle'. She represents the Centre in the Berlin International Studies Network (BISS). Corinna co-ordinates the Erasmus Placement Programme that offers financial support to students doing an internship abroad. Other activities include preparing the manuscripts of conference proceedings and supervising their publication. Finally, she edits the Centre's annual report. Corinna is the Centre's equal opportunities officer.

## **Sylvena Zöllner**

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk, and has been working at the Centre 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. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all records for our Master degree, calculating the final Master mark, and preparing the final Master certificates.

## **Librarian**

### **Evelyn Thalheim**

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

## **Student Assistants**

In 2012 the following student assistants supported us:

### **Laura Benjamin**

Law

### **Jens Brückerhoff**

Law

### **Arne Gutsche**

Law

### **Luise Klimera**

English

### **Thore Podlich**

Gender Studies

**Markus Reimer**

Industrial Environmental Computing

**Christina Rücker**

Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

**Laura Stähler**

English and Gender Studies

**Sebastian Thalheim**

History



The Centre's staff (from left): Gerhard Dannemann, Corinna Radke, Sylvena Zöllner, Christiane Eisenberg, Jens Ennen, Erik Spindler, Gesa Stedman, Sandra Müller, Catherine Smith, Hugh Mackay (guest lecturer), Christopher Schuller, and Georgia Christinidis.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Steven Truxal - A Year at the Centre

The Centre for British Studies prides itself on its uniqueness, appropriately so as the only known instance of interdisciplinary 'Master of British Studies' programme in the world. Indeed, even if it were offered elsewhere, I am not certain the 'competitor' could even come close to reproducing what is done in Berlin nor do it as well.

My first impression of the relationship between students, and between students and staff members, can be summed up in one big word: personal. Taken together, the intimate size of the M.B.S. cohort, the number of home and external teaching staff and administrators, and the very agreeable space the Centre enjoys at Mohrenstraße are very healthy ingredients in the melting pot of mentorships, friendships, respect, intellectuality, free-thinking and success.

To boot, the student cohort comprises some very diverse and interesting characters and characteristics. Happily, I have been on a first-name basis with students this year for the first in my six years of lecturing. My office was across the corridor from the Student Common Room, which was to my surprise a rather agreeable experience. Students have a myriad of opportunities to attend top-rate guest lectures, attend conferences, organise events and take up internships with access to a list of rather impressive providers. What I took to be an overall jolly 'mood' of this year's cohort clearly bears this out; and it should. They particularly enjoyed the community feel, guest lectures, the mix and diversity of classes and small class size, the 'interdisciplinary' nature of the programme and willingness of fellow students to 'get involved' especially on the Lange Nacht project.

My overall impressions after just one year is that many great things happen at the Centre, about which both students and staff should feel pleased, proud and lucky. I am certainly grateful for the experiences and memories from my year at the Centre.



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Prof Dr Gisela Bock and Prof Dr Volker Hunecke  
Dirk Hansen

for their generous support in 2012.

## FRIENDS OF THE CENTRE

By becoming a Friend and donating a yearly sum of at least 25.00 Euros you can help to 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 to hunt for jobs on the student labour market.

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Mohrenstraße 60

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