



GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM
Centre for British Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



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THE CENTRE IN 2008

2008 was an exciting year for the Centre for British Studies. We moved from our old address in Jägerstraße to bright and spacious rooms in Mohrenstraße 60. We have also experienced numerous changes when it comes to the composition of our staff.

To start with, Jürgen Schlaeger, who led the Centre from its foundation in 1995, retired at the end of September 2008. In order to celebrate his many achievements and sweeten his retirement, the Centre's staff organised a festive reception for him. It is clear to us all that we have not just seen the departure of an experienced Director and esteemed spokesperson, but both the Centre and the Master course have lost their *spiritus rector*. However, the fact that Professor Schlaeger decided to participate in the preparations for the 200-year anniversary of the Humboldt University in 2010, has ensured that he will still be in close contact with the Centre in the foreseeable future. The current professors at the Centre will take on the responsibilities of Director on a rotational basis; I was the first to do so after Professor Schlaeger's retirement.

As early as April 2008, we were able to welcome Professor Gesa Stedman, Professor Schlaeger's successor in the field of British Literature and Culture. This ensured a smooth transfer when it came to this key area of the Centre's teaching and research programmes.



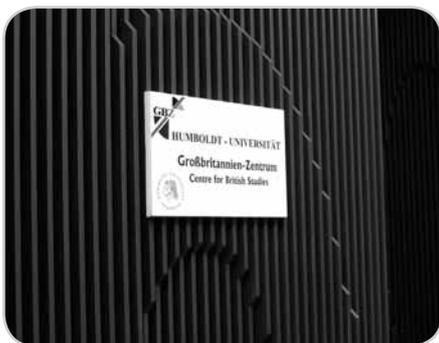
From left to right: C. Eisenberg, S. Zöllner, G. Stedman, C. Radke, G. Christinidis, G. Dannemann, S. Müller, J. Ennen, E. Thalheim

There were also several departures and new appointments among our lecturers in 2008. As Dr Roland Wenzlhuemmer left to establish his own junior research group at Heidelberg University through the Initiative for Academic Excellence, we had the opportunity to bring in the young historian Heather Ellis from Oxford University. In the field of Cultural and Literary Studies another Oxford graduate, Dr Georgia Christinidis, replaced Rita Gerlach, who successfully completed her PhD thesis at the end of her time here. Jens Ennen, a young economist from Maastricht University, succeeded Christian Handke, who took up a post as Assistant Professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam. And, as the successor to Marc Stauch, who also left us after several years with a successfully completed PhD, we will soon be welcoming the young lawyer, Irene Maier, who has been connected with the Centre since the beginning of her university studies.



The entrance of Mohrenstrasse.

These many new arrivals, or rather the vacancies that preceded them, have necessitated a considerable amount of extra effort on the part of the Centre's established staff. Yet they have also been a breath of fresh air, opening up innovative partnerships and new perspectives. In the field of research, this renewal will manifest itself in a stronger emphasis in the field of Area Studies at the Centre for British Studies. Complementing our current focus on "Commerce and Culture", which has resulted in a number of research projects and publications in the last



few years, we will also begin to explore the theme of “Connectivity”. In the process, we will examine and analyse the UK as an actor in international and transnational relations and explore in particular the mechanisms by which Britain interacts and connects with other cultures, regions, and nation states. As with our previous research projects, this focus on the theme of “Connectivity” will deal with key questions concerning legal, institutional, political, economic, and cultural dimensions, both in historical and contemporary contexts.

A further focal point in the work of the Centre for British Studies will continue to be the degree of Master in British Studies, which in 2009 will be offered for the tenth consecutive year. The success of this degree course also

provides me with the opportunity to thank the many friends and supporters of the Centre for British Studies, who help with our work and ensure that the Centre remains a truly international institution. Without the commitment

and help of our British guest lecturers and placement providers, the financial support of foundations such as the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank* and the whole-hearted backing from the leadership and administration of the Humboldt University, it would not be possible for us to provide students from around the world with such a challenging and wide-ranging programme of study. It is this particular experience of Anglo-German cooperation in the great city of Berlin which makes the Centre the wonderful institution that it is.

Christiane Eisenberg

M.B.S. reaccredited with outstanding results

Now it is official: our Master of British Studies is “nearly unrivalled in Germany and in the international context”. Lavish praise was heaped on the M.B.S. during the statutory reaccreditation by the independent agency, AQUAS, which took place in 2008. Their experts were particularly impressed by the quality of the syllabus, the tutorial care offered, the ongoing evaluation of the course, and the career prospects of our graduates.

THE CENTRE’S NEW PREMISES

After much confusion and a number of unsuccessful attempts a solution for the relocation of the Centre was found that was to everybody’s satisfaction. The Centre now has premises in Mohrenstrasse, just two blocks south of Jaegerstrasse, which serve all its needs very well.



The British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Michael Arthur, wishing the Centre good luck in its new premises.

Thanks to the vice president responsible for the allocation of premises, we have a representative location which allows us to create a congenial working environment. We also owe our thanks to the people in the “*Technische Abteilung*” who always listened to our special wishes and were very helpful with the logistics of our move to the Mohrenstrasse.

The new premises enable the Centre to accommodate a larger number of guests to its public lectures. Even so finding a seat can be a problem if you happen to arrive late. The students benefit from larger and brighter classrooms, a reading and computer room and improved technical equipment. The same goes for conference speakers and participants alike. An official Housewarming Party was held with students, alumni, and many guests on 19 May 2008. The British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Michael Anthony Arthur (KCMG), held a speech and highlighted the Centre’s role in building bridges between Britain and Germany.

Our new contact details:

Address: Mohrenstrasse 60, 10117 Berlin
Telephone: +49 (0)30 2093 99040/50
Fax: +49 (0)30 2093 99042/55

THE MASTER IN BRITISH STUDIES

Course Description

Our postgraduate Master course started in 1999 and has become a resounding success. The quality of applicants for the 25 places available every year has risen consistently. In 2008 we had the course 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 with more than a dozen different first degrees. The magnitude of the challenge in teaching such a heterogeneous group is easily compensated by the degree of pleasure 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 in a European perspective.

Admission

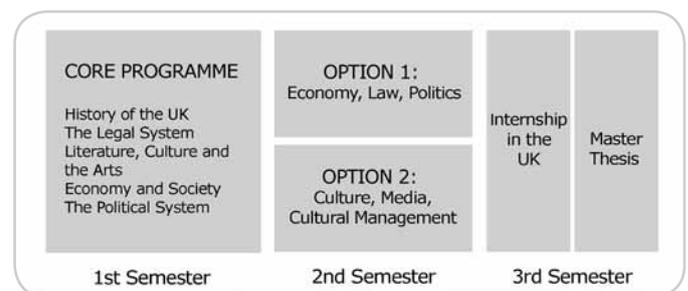
Applicants need to have a very good first university degree in any subject. Furthermore, candidates need to speak very good English. The application must contain proof of your proficiency in the form of an ETS TOEFL certificate (minimum score of 600 for the paper-based test, 250 for the computer-based test, or 100 for the internet-based test), or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (any grade), or a Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (grade A or B), or an IELTS test (level 7.0). A working knowledge of German is highly advisable.

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

Course Structure

The postgraduate degree course in British Studies is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. It consists of a two-semester Certificate Phase followed by a six-month Master Phase. 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.).

The Certificate Phase comprises about 30 weeks of teaching, divided into two phases of roughly equal length. 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. On average, they have to attend about 20 hours of classes per week. During the Master Phase students will spend 3 months with a firm or institution in Britain (internships). In the remaining three months they are expected to write their M.B.S. thesis. The entire course is taught in English.



Core Programme

The Core Programme consists of three teaching modules. The following are examples of teaching units (lectures, seminars, project work etc.) within each module:

Module 1: Introduction

- Research Skills
- Presentation Techniques
- Current Affairs
- Business and Academic English

Module 2: Law, Politics, Economy, and History

- The English Legal System
- Constitutional Law
- British History
- Special Aspects of Economic, Social, and Political History
- Political Institutions
- Economic Structures
- Social Structures

Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK

- A Cultural History of Literature in English
- Contemporary British Literature in Context I
- A Cultural History of the Arts
- Patriotism, National and Regional Identities
- Contemporary Britain: Myths, Trends, Fashion, Policies



Discussing the topic of the class.

Options Programme

The Options Programme allows students to specialise by choosing one out of the following two options:

Option 1

Economy, Law and Politics

Examples of teaching units within the modules are:

Module 1: Accompanying Module

- Current Affairs
- Business and Academic English
- Workshop Intercultural Communication
- Workshop Project Management

Module 2: Economy

- Economic Geography
- Industrial Organisation
- The Welfare System
- The Financial System
- Media Markets
- Marketing

Module 3: Law

- Contract Law
- Tort Law
- Commercial Law
- Media Law

Module 4: Politics

- Centralism and Regionalism
- British Foreign Policy
- British Domestic Policy
- British International Relations

Option 2

Culture, Media, and Cultural Management

Examples of teaching units within the modules are:

Module 1: Accompanying Module

- Current Affairs
- Business and Academic English
- Workshop Intercultural Communication
- Workshop Project Management

Module 2: High and Popular Culture

- Literature, Culture, and the Self
- Contemporary British Literature in Context II
- Popular Culture in Contemporary Britain
- Film in the UK: Past and Present

Module 3: British Media – Past and Present

- Media Theory and Media Studies
- The Public Sphere in Modern Times
- The Media in Consumer Society
- Media Law

Module 4: Cultural Management

- Cultural Management
- The Literary Field in the UK
- Cultural Policy and Funding
- Marketing



HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN
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Master in British Studies

The "Master in British Studies" (M.B.S.) is an interdisciplinary, practice-oriented and international programme at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. It is open to graduates from any academic subject. The M.B.S., which is accredited, does not have tuition fees. All classes are held in English.

The 18-month programme starts with an intensive introductory semester followed by a semester in which students can choose between two options, "British Economy, Law, Politics" or "Culture, Media, Cultural Management". The third semester includes a 3-month internship in the UK and a Master's thesis.

The M.B.S. course runs on an annual basis and starts in October. Applications must be submitted by the end of April in the same year.

Application form and further particulars:
<http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de>

M.B.S. Students

Class 2007/2009



| No. | Name | Nationality | First Degree |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. | Ávalos, Etna | Mexico | Communication Studies |
| 2. | Berger, Juliane | Germany | History of Art |
| 3. | Cao, Yun | China | English |
| 4. | Chairopoulou, Elizabeth | UK / Greece | English |
| 5. | Exarchou, Maria | Greece | English Language and Literature |
| 6. | Feitsch, Victoria | Germany | Theatre Studies, Drama, and Performance Studies |
| 7. | Floren, Julia | Germany | English Studies and Law |
| 8. | Foepl, Sabine | Germany | Management and German |
| 9. | Friebel, Helena | Germany | Literature, and Culture and Media Studies |
| 10. | Goredema, Prue | Zimbabwe | Journalism and Applied Linguistics |
| 11. | Guan, Wei | China | English Language and Literature |
| 12. | Karagöl, Jessica | Germany | European Studies |
| 13. | Korepanova, Julia | Russia | Translation and Translation Studies |
| 14. | Kostadinova, Stanislava | Bulgaria | English Philology |
| 15. | Kotlarz, Malgorzata | Poland | Applied Linguistics |
| 16. | Kovale, Oksana | Latvia | English Philology |
| 17. | Kropaite, Zivile | Lithuania | English Philology |
| 18. | Kurushina, Ekaterina | Russia | English and German Philology |
| 19. | Letsiaha, Nina | Belarus | English Language and Literature, and German |
| 20. | Peretyagina, Tamara | Russia | International Relations |
| 21. | Samsonova, Maria | Ukraine | Philology |
| 22. | Shteyn, Anastasia | Russia | Aesthetics and Art Business |
| 23. | Tkach, Ganna | Ukraine | Arts in Philology |
| 24. | Uluşık, Fatma Barçın | Turkey | English Language |
| 25. | Zuccotti, Francesca | Italy | Culture and Language Mediation (English and German for Tourism Management) |

Class 2008/2010



| No. | Name | Nationality | First Degree |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1. | Akbas, Safiye Merve | Turkey | Translation and Interpreting Studies |
| 2. | Aust, Linda | Germany | English and German Literature |
| 3. | Belyaeva, Julia | Russia | Linguistics |
| 4. | Berne, Emmanuelle | France | Applied Languages to Economy and Law |
| 5. | Cheng, Hsiang-Yi | Taiwan | Foreign Languages and Literature |
| 6. | Hadian Cefidekhanie, Ali | Iran | English Language and Literature |
| 7. | Kobyakova, Ksenia | Russia | Linguistics and Foreign Language Teaching |
| 8. | Krasutskaya, Natallia | Belarus | Pedagogical Sciences |
| 9. | Perišić, Bojana | Serbia | English Language and Literature |
| 10. | Philippoupolitis, Dimitrios | Greece | Sociology; Translation |
| 11. | Pieck, Justus | Germany | International Culture and Business Studies |
| 12. | Pulyaeva, Daria | Russia | Cross-Cultural Communication; Linguistics and Foreign Languages |
| 13. | Repke, Ulrike | Germany | English and Spanish |
| 14. | Rodriguez Ortiz, Leonardo | Colombia | Business Administrator |
| 15. | Roman, Cristina | Romania | Applied Modern Languages: German and English |
| 16. | Rozdiel, Amos | Israel | American Studies and Spanish |
| 17. | Sadr Mousavi, Seyyedeh Sona | Iran | Law |
| 18. | Schüßler, Clara | Germany | Literary, Cultural, and Media Studies |
| 19. | Sobiepanek, Katarzyna | Poland | International Relations, BA English Philology |
| 20. | Tortosa, Patricia | Spain | Journalism and Political Sciences |
| 21. | Uznadze, Gvantsa | Georgia | English Language and Literature, Sociology |
| 22. | Verigo, Elena | Russia | Culture and History Studies |
| 23. | Wang, Hengxin | China | English |
| 24. | Wittan, Anna-Janina | Germany | Interpreting for Business, Courts, Civil Services (German, English, French) |
| 25. | Wittenberg, Jamie | USA | Associate of Arts degree, BA Literature |
| 26. | Yeşilbaş, Emre | Turkey | English Language, Teaching, History of Philosophy |

Teaching

Core Programme 2007/2008 (Winter Term)

| Subject | Lecturer |
|--|---|
| <i>Module 1: Introduction</i> | |
| English for Special Purposes | Alison Singer, Freelance Lecturer of Business English |
| Academic Writing Workshop | Sandra Müller |
| Intercultural Communication | Grit Kümmele, Trainer, Instructor, Translator, Berlin |
| Presentation Techniques | Christian Handke/ Olin Roenpage, UMS Consulting |
| Project Management | Rita Gerlach |
| <i>Module 2: Law, Politics, Economics, and History</i> | |
| Political and Economic History | Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg |
| Empire and Commonwealth History | Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer |
| The British Economy | Dr Pikay Richardson, Manchester Business School |
| The English Legal System: A Historical Introduction | Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann |
| Social Stratification | Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland |
| Constitutional Law and Political Institutions | Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann/ Marc Stauch |
| <i>Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK</i> | |
| The History of English Literature | Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger |
| Contemporary English Literature: Poetry | Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger |
| National Identity | Rita Gerlach |
| Contemporary Britain | Dr Bernd Becker, Political Consultant, Bonn |

Options Programme 2008 (Summer Term)

Option 1: Economics, Law and Politics

| Subject | Lecturer |
|--|--|
| <i>Module 1: Accompanying Module</i> | |
| Workshop: Project Management | Rita Gerlach / Sandra Müller |
| Current Affairs | Jens Ennen |
| Business English | Nick Handforth, Freelance Lecturer of Business English |
| <i>Module 2: Economics</i> | |
| Economic Geography | Prof Dr Sebastian Kinder, Tübingen University |
| The UK Financial System | Jens Ennen |
| Marketing | Lynn Parkinson, City University London |
| Media in the UK | Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University in Wales |
| <i>Module 3: Law</i> | |
| Contract Law | Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann |
| Tort Law | Marc Stauch |
| Commercial Law | Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann |
| Media Law | Marc Stauch |
| <i>Module 4: Politics</i> | |
| Politics at the Centre: Monarchy, the Lords, the Civil Service | Prof Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster |
| Politics beyond the Centre: Devolution, Local Government, State and Economy | Prof Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster |
| Political Parties and Interest Groups | Dr Bernd Becker, Political Consultant, Bonn |
| British International Relations | Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer |

Option 2: Culture, Media and Cultural Management

| Subject | Lecturer |
|---|--|
| <i>Module 1: Accompanying Module</i> | |
| Workshop: Project Management | Rita Gerlach / Sandra Müller |
| Current Affairs | Jens Ennen |
| Business English | Nick Handforth, Freelance Lecturer of Business English |
| <i>Module 2: High and Popular Culture in the UK</i> | |
| Culture and the Self | Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger |
| Theories of Culture | Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| The Contemporary Novel | Sandra Müller |
| Contemporary Drama | Dr Georgia Christinidis |
| Film in the UK – Past and Present | Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| <i>Module 3: British Media – Past and Present</i> | |
| The Media in the UK | Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University in Wales |
| The Public Sphere and Popular Culture | Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg |
| The Media in Consumer Society | Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg |
| Media Law | Marc Stauch |
| <i>Module 4: Cultural Management in the UK</i> | |
| Cultural Policy and Funding in the Cultural Sector | Dr Andrew Feist, City University London |
| Film Business | Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| The Literary Field | Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| Marketing | Lynn Parkinson, City University London |

Core Programme 2008/2009 (Winter Term)

| Subject | Lecturer |
|--|--|
| <i>Module 1: Introduction</i> | |
| Workshop on Interdisciplinarity | Academic staff of the Centre for British Studies |
| English for Special Purposes | Nick Handforth, Freelance Lecturer of Business English |
| Academic Writing Workshop | Jens Ennen / Sandra Müller |
| Intercultural Communication | Babette Gekeler, UCL, Trainer and Postgraduate |
| Presentation Techniques | Jens Ennen / Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| Project Management | Sandra Müller |
| <i>Module 2: Law, Politics, Economics, and History</i> | |
| Political and Economic History | Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg |
| Empire and Commonwealth History | Heather Ellis |
| The British Economy | Dr Pikay Richardson, Managing Consultant, Manchester |
| The English Legal System: | |
| A Historical Introduction | Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann |
| Social Stratification | Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland |
| Constitutional Law and | Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann/ Marc Stauch |
| Political Institutions | |
| <i>Module 3: Literature and Culture in the UK</i> | |
| A Cultural History of Literatures in English | Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| Contemporary English Literature in Context (I): | |
| Crime Novels | Prof Dr Gesa Stedman |
| British Identities | Dr Georgia Christinidis |
| Contemporary Britain | Dr Bernd Becker, Political Consultant, Bonn |

Teaching Examples

Intercultural Communication

Babette Gekeler

The workshop ‘intercultural communication’ was aimed at introducing the group’s members to each other. By means of interactive activity and role play, the implications of intercultural differences were revealed and students were directed towards reflecting upon their own cultural backgrounds and identities. These cultural backgrounds and identities influence group relations and interpersonal interactions and it was part of the aims of the course to highlight this impact. Apart from the personal experience, which carried a lot of weight in the course, theoretical and practical findings in the area of intercultural research and practice were presented. Amongst these contents were cultural dimension research (i.e. Hofstede and Trompenaars), culture shock (Bochner and Furnham) and intercultural team-development. In sum, the workshop was set up to give a general overview of the area of intercultural theory and work, to raise the students’ awareness of their cultural selves and stereotyping, to encourage self-reflection, and to give students tools to work with in critical intercultural settings (on behavioural, cognitive and emotional levels) while bringing the group closer together as a multicultural team.



Catching cultural dimensions in behavioural exchange.

Project Management

Sandra Müller

The 7-month course aims at providing theoretical knowledge of the phases and tools of project management as well as putting theory into practice. The students are expected to design, plan, implement, and document a complex project in the field of event management in cooperation with the ‘*Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*’, a cultural event, similar to an open day, organized together by multiple academic institutions in Berlin during which they remain open late into the

night and give an insight into their work. The students work in teams, organise themselves and their tasks, and learn how to cope with conflicts, time restrictions, and other common project management risks. In 2008, the project was called ‘Mind the Gap: Di/visions in Britain and Berlin’ and focused on different types of divisions, some visible and some not, in Berlin as well as in several British cities (e.g. London and Glasgow). The perspectives of the project were introduced through different media, such as film, an exhibition, and music. Although it is a lot of work, the students usually appreciate the course as being ‘hands-on’ and giving them the opportunity to use what they have learned in a ‘real life’ setting.



Event management and team work.

Contemporary British Drama

Georgia Christinidis

The course took Stoppard’s *The Real Thing* as its point of departure to raise the question of ‘realism’ in theatre and discuss the ‘play within a play’ device. The effect of ‘realism’ as opposed to defamiliarising or even shocking theatrical effects was then discussed with regard to the explicitly political plays *Early Morning*, by Edward Bond, and *Blasted*, by Sarah Kane. The links between drama and religion or ritual were elucidated through a reading of Peter Shaffer’s *Equus* in conjunction with short excerpts from Artaud’s ‘Theatre of Cruelty’. Students performed short scenes to explore the way in which different kinds of plays lend themselves to different ways of being performed; thus, method acting, developed in connection with naturalist theatre, was found to be feasible in performing *The Real Thing* but not, for example, *Early Morning*, which lent itself to Brechtian techniques of defamiliarisation.

The UK Financial System

Jens Ennen

The course aims to make students familiar with the importance of a financial system to the overall economy - a phenomenon that recent developments have shown

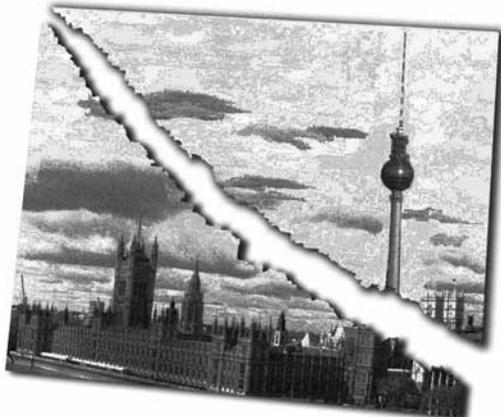
to be highly relevant. The similarities and differences between several types of financial institutions are discussed, as well as the large number of different markets (e.g. stock, bond, foreign exchange, derivatives) in which such institutions are active. Furthermore the seminar deals with the role of the government and the function of its agencies. What, for example, are the reasons for prudential regulation? What are the tasks of the Treasury, the FSA, and the Bank of England? In addition, the students learn something about the purpose of monetary and fiscal policy. The approach of the course is interactive, with lectures, group assignments and discussions, student presentations, and written work.

M.B.S. Student Project

Mind the Gap: Di\visions in Britain and Berlin

The M.B.S. class presented the project “Mind the Gap: Di\visions in Britain and Berlin” at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*. Through various media, such as film, an exhibition, food, and music the project introduced different types of divisions, some visible (e.g. by a wall) and some not (e.g. by entertainment or football teams), in Berlin as well as in several British cities.

Mind the gap: Di\visions in Britain and Berlin



“Do you mind the gap? We do ...”

Our guests were invited to find out about the political, religious, and cultural di\visions in these places and their importance to contemporary life. We made it an informative but also an entertaining night with a children’s corner, a lottery, delicious food and cocktails as well as a quiz with prizes. This turned out to be an extremely popular project among the *Lange Nacht* visitors: the GBZ stand was besieged. Among our great

attractions was the children’s corner. Unexpectedly, it shared happy moments not only with the little visitors, but also with our grown-up audience (including some GBZ staff with a secret passion for sketchbooks). Another top attraction for the visitors was our cocktail bar. A reasonable price and unforgettable taste made people queue for the made-in-heaven drinks. And, when it seemed it could not get any better, the president of the university himself paid us an honoured visit, as he was eager to see one of the most discussed projects and of course to share a cocktail with us. We felt honoured and happy.

We put a lot of effort into it, and it paid back.

Oksana Kovale
Student Project Manager



Children’s Corner: a favourite with small and big visitors.

Internships

Students’ Reports

i-to-i Meaningful Travel, Leeds

Victoria Feitsch

My internship application to i-to-i uk ltd., a volunteer travel company, early this year was the response to an amazing experience they (amongst others) had made possible for me three years before. And again, my expectations were not disappointed. The experience with the company, this time not in the role of customer but marketing intern, was a fabulous one. I was trusted with a variety of interesting tasks, challenged with ‘unknown territory’ and integrated into the business as a full-time employee and thus valued member of the team. The i-to-i team was not only a number of colleagues working together, but a bunch of lovely (and to an extent crazy) people striving to achieve the goal of giving as many people as possible the opportunity to support a community different from and not as privileged as their own.

Oxfam, Oxford

Etna Àvalos

I had one of the best times of my life during my internship in Oxford. I gained valuable work experience at Oxfam House and a good insight into the workings and goings-on of the charity business in the UK. The Trading Division team received me with big smiles and were always friendly and willing to help me. In addition, Oxford is a wonderful place so I enjoyed my stay a lot. These internships offer M.B.S. students an opportunity to have a deeper cultural knowledge of Britain and that is just fantastic.

Museums of Scotland

Juliane Berger

I really enjoyed my intership. I was given projects I could work on for a few days or weeks without having to ask every two hours: "What can I do now?". I also had the possibility to do research in the most important Scottish libraries and archives and such curious

ones as the Goldsmiths' Incorporation. I got to know the National Museums' store houses where I was inventorying objects and handling precious 18th and 19th century costumes. In my opinion, I got a good impression of how this museum works and who is responsible for what and as a side effect, I learned a great deal about Scottish silver and its makers.



M.B.S. students on their internships: exploring Edinburgh.

Name of Student

Placement Institution

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Avalos, Etna | Oxfam, Oxford |
| Berger, Juliane | National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh |
| Chairopoulou, Elizabeth | Exberliner magazine, Berlin |
| Exarchou, Maria | Metal Culture, Liverpool |
| Feitsch, Victoria | i-to-i Foundation, Leeds |
| Floren, Julia | Jackie Baillie MSP, Edinburgh |
| Foepl, Sabine | British Council, Berlin |
| Friebel, Helena | Labour Support Unit, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh |
| Karagöl, Jessica | Robert Walter MP, Westminster |
| Kostadinova, Stanislava | Pearson plc, London |
| Kotlarz, Małgorzata | British Council, Manchester |
| Kovale, Oksana | EU Commission Representation, London |
| Kropaite, Zivile | Cheltenham Festivals, Cheltenham |
| Letsiaha, Nina | Pauline McNeill MSP, Edinburgh |
| Peretyagina, Tamara | Ben Bradshaw MP, Westminster |
| Samsonova, Maria | Fairtrade Foundation, London |
| Tkach, Ganna | Bill Rammell MP, Westminster |
| Uluşık, Fatma Barçın | Spinwatch, Strathclyde University, Glasgow |
| Zuccotti, Francesca | World Travel & Tourism Council, London |

The introduction of a new immigration scheme in the UK has made it increasingly cumbersome for our non-EEA students to obtain a visa, causing long delays in some cases. The Centre is presently negotiating with UK government departments in order to overcome this problem.

M.B.S. Theses

During the final part of the M.B.S. course the students are required to write their M.B.S. thesis. They must show analytical and critical competence and transfer knowledge and skills acquired in the different modules and courses by focusing on a chosen subject that is explicitly related to the United Kingdom and, if convenient, may also be related to their placement in Britain. The following is a list of topics chosen by the class of 2006-2008.

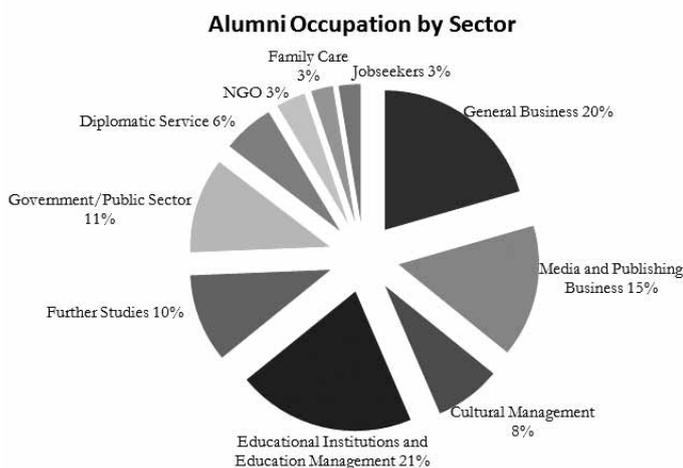
| Name | Thesis Topic |
|----------------------|---|
| Ackermann, Kirsten | Lexical Frequency in International Academic English |
| Altuner, Özlem | British Support for Turkey's Bid for EU Membership: An Economic and Political Analysis |
| Amiroğlu, Serda | Multicultural Frontiers: The Construction of Migrant Identities in <i>The Satanic Verses</i> |
| Angelova, Diana | England's Place within the UK after Asymmetrical Devolution |
| Bröckerhoff, Aurélie | Performance Criteria of 'Cultural' Diplomacy. A Case Study of the British Council |
| Disanto, Sara | National Identity, Social Policy, and the Poverty Debate. Is it different in Scotland? |
| Dmitrieva, Anna | Scotland's Representation in Europe in the Post-Devolution Era: Results and Expectations |
| Heinz, Constanze | Knowing your Audience and Creating Successful Exhibitions – Modern Challenges in Contemporary Museums |
| Jacobs, Ioana | The British Legacy of Ambivalence between European Integration in Security Policy Matters and NATO Membership |
| Kammel, Ira | Regional Policy in Britain – Communicating the Effects of Structural Funds |
| Liu, Yun | The Impact of Current Demographic Changes on Scottish Higher and Further Education |
| Lüdenbach, Judith | From Clarissa Dalloway to Isabella Oliver – Virginia Woolf's Reflection of the Interwar Period |
| Nowakowska, Natalia | Political Communication in the UK: The Online Revolution? |
| Roecker, Tim | The British Conservative Party: Rebuilding and Revival |
| Schmideder, Veronika | Belfast Narratives: Representations of the City and its People in Northern Irish Fiction |
| Ürgün, Elif | British Outbound Tourism and Istanbul |
| Wojnilko, Anna | Contemporary British Editorial Cartoons – A Haven of Free Expression? |
| Zaperta, Emilia | The British Media and the Monarchy: Elizabeth the Dutiful or Elizabeth the Last? The Press Perception of Queen Elizabeth II in the UK 1997-2007 |
| Zeković, Merita | From Cultural Recognition to Cultural Exchange: The Arts in Post-Conflict Belfast and Sarajevo |
| Zhang, Jingyuan | Comparative Studies of Medical Negligence – English and Chinese Approaches |

This year's best Master Thesis was written by Emilia Zaperta. Her paper has been published on the Centre's website <http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de> (Working Papers).

M.B.S. Alumni

We are currently teaching the tenth class of M.B.S. students, while the students from the year before are either about to finish their internships in the UK or in the last stages of writing their thesis. So far there are 168 students who are part of our alumni network. We have recent job information from 117, which is about 70 per cent. The largest group of students (35 per cent) works for private companies. This can be split up into the group General Business with a share of 20 per cent and Media and Publishing Business with 15 per cent of our alumni. About a fifth (21 per cent) of our former students is working in the field of education, either by teaching or managing institutions in the field of education. The public sector and diplomatic services also provide jobs to our alumni with shares of 11 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. A tenth of all people who have already completed their M.B.S. decided to proceed with education (e.g. another Masters' programme or PhD). Three per cent of the graduates are working for NGOs, with the same percentages for family care and jobseekers. The successful labour market status of our alumni gives us the certainty that the M.B.S. programme provides students with valuable skills that lay the foundation for a promising career.

| Sector | Absolute No. | % |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| General Business | 24 | 20,5 |
| Media and Publishing Business | 18 | 15,4 |
| Cultural Management | 9 | 7,7 |
| Educational Institutions and Education Management | 24 | 20,5 |
| Further Studies | 12 | 10,3 |
| Government/Public Sector | 13 | 11,1 |
| Diplomatic Service | 7 | 6,0 |
| NGO | 4 | 3,4 |
| Family Care | 3 | 2,6 |
| Jobseekers | 3 | 2,6 |
| SUM | 117 | 100,0 |



We appreciate staying in touch with our alumni. Therefore we invite them to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the M.B.S. programme on 4 June 2009. Furthermore, the Centre has introduced Humboldt University's new and extended Alumni online platform, which makes staying in contact between the staff and our alumni (as well as between themselves) easier and more interactive. Provided an alumnus has allowed for this in the settings, he or she can be found and contacted by other alumni and current students. They can additionally upload personal information, create sub-communities and a lot more. The Centre will also invite alumni to an expert seminar from 11 to 15 October 2010 in the context of Humboldt University's 200th anniversary celebrations. There will be lectures, panel discussions, workshops, an alumni concert and a Get-Together-Party. Funds for travelling and accommodation for international students will be provided.



G. Nikolov and A. Urzhumtsev - former M.B.S. students who like to keep in touch.

What happened to ...

Kirsten Ackermann, Class 2006-2008

The internship, which was part of the M.B.S., opened the door to my professional career in test development here in London. Almost immediately, I was entrusted with my own project "the compilation of the Pearson International Corpus of Academic English". As the three-month internship drew to a close, I was given the opportunity to write my Master thesis on corpus linguistics within Pearson Language Tests. Once I had successfully completed the M.B.S., I was offered a job as Researcher by my manager Dr. John H.A.L. de Jong. Apart from completing the corpus project, I am working on two high-stake tests to be launched in 2009 (Pearson Test of English: Academic) and in 2010 (Pearson Test of English: General). In addition to the office-based tasks, as a researcher I have the opportunity to publish articles and present papers at various conferences. And finally, the icing on the cake is the Englishman that stole my heart a year ago.

TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES

Die erste und die zweite Industrielle Revolution in Großbritannien

The First and the Second Industrial Revolution in Britain

The first industrial revolution began in the final decades of the eighteenth century. It led to the concentration of the labour force in factories, particularly in the textile sector, and the deployment of increasingly powerful steam engines. The second industrial revolution is usually dated to the late nineteenth century. This process was characterized by the introduction of new energy technologies based on oil and electricity as well as the growing dominance of new industries in the chemical and electrical engineering sectors.

From the British perspective, the consequences of these economic and technological shifts were decidedly mixed. While their pioneering role in the first industrial revolution enabled the British to dominate the world economy, for many Britons, the second marked a relative 'decline' in their economic power despite the fact that many British firms successfully took advantage of the new technologies of the late nineteenth century.

Professor Eisenberg gave this seminar at the Humboldt's History Faculty during the summer term of 2008. It explored the economic, social, and cultural context of both industrial revolutions and particularly analysed the shifts in the international balance of power when it came to industrial production.

Das 20. Jahrhundert aus der Perspektive des internationalen Sports

The Twentieth Century as seen from the Perspective of International Sport

Professor Eisenberg taught this joint seminar for advanced history and sport students in the winter term 2008/09. Its main focus was on the ways in which international sport reflected wider social and economic shifts in the twentieth century. The transformation of international sport was not just the result of a surge in migration flows and the economic and political consequences of globalisation, but was also heavily influenced by international crises and the two World Wars. In addition, important financial and institutional support was provided by various dictatorships which helped to increase the prestige and global reach of modern sport.

Several key examples of the adaptability of international sport were analysed in the course of this seminar series. It also examined the extent to which sport has actively influenced other aspects of international relations. Reflecting recent developments in research, this seminar series also explored some examples of the impact of international sport outside Europe.

International and Comparative Contract Law

Professor Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter term 2008/09. 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.



Looking forward to classes.

Finanzierung im Kulturbetrieb (Arts Funding)

Rita Gerlach taught this seminar during the summer term 2008 for international students of the Master in Cultural Management and Tourism at the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder at the German-Polish border. It introduces the different ways of funding an arts organisation in Germany. It deals with public funding both from EU and German federal, state and municipal sources as well as with sponsoring and fundraising as financial sources from the public and civic (third) sectors.

RESEARCH

Current Research Projects

Views from Abroad: Bibliographies on Britain – now available on the Centre’s website

From the 19th century onwards historians, sociologists and cultural scientists have focused their interest on the development of nation states. In this respect the specific development of Britain has always played a crucial role because processes of modernisation began there earlier than elsewhere and in many respects also took a different course. The country was generally acknowledged to reveal to its successors an “image of their own future”, as Marx explained it in his foreword to “Das Kapital”. For this reason, and as a result of Britain’s global expansion from the 18th century onwards, countless authors have written studies on European countries comparing them with Britain (or England), and for more than 100 years analysed perceptions and cultural transfers.

In many cases these comparisons have been implicit, i.e. on the basis of general pre-existing knowledge, without a special method, unsystematic and quite often for political reasons. Since the 1970s/80s, however, a certain professionalisation in this area has become noticeable and, thanks to the recent upsurge in research on transnational developments, English/British studies from an outside perspective have become a booming industry.

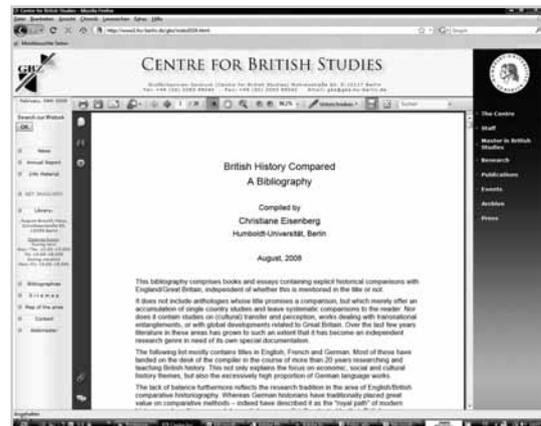
The collected bibliographies document these research activities as well as sources which may be relevant for further research. They thereby provide an extension to existing bibliographies on British history, society and culture (e.g. the Royal Historical Society Bibliography), which comprise comparative and transnational studies only in individual cases.

British History Compared: This bibliography, compiled by Christiane Eisenberg, comprises books and articles containing explicit historical comparisons with England/Great Britain, independent of whether this is mentioned in the title or not.

Contemporary Britain Compared: An overview of the sociological, economic, and political science publications sponsored by the Anglo-German Foundation will be made available in 2009.

Britain Perceived: Books and articles about the UK published in Germany between 1830 and 1914: A Bibliography. Compiled by Andrew Lees (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Campus at Camden).

British Culture Transferred: This bibliography, compiled by Gesa Stedman and Sandra Müller, will be available in the near future.



<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/gbz/index1024.html>

The website will be extended in the future. Anyone wishing to contribute further bibliographies is invited to contact christiane.eisenberg@rz.hu-berlin.de.

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann**Existing EC Private Law and the Draft Common Frame of Reference**

Professor 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 most 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 these principles and rules which will help to define the common structures of an emerging Community private law. Within this group, Professor Dannemann heads both the Redaction Committee and the Terminology Group. In 2007, the Acquis Group published the first part of its work: “Principles of the Existing EC Contract Law (Acquis Principles), Contract I: Pre-Contractual Obligations. Conclusion of Contract. Unfair Terms”, with Sellier publishers, München; Contract II is to appear in 2009. Further information can be obtained at: <http://www.acquis-group.org>.

In 2008, Professor Dannemann became a member of the Compilation and Redaction Team which is responsible for compiling the Draft Common Frame of Reference on European Contract Law from provisions drafted by the Acquis Group and the Study Group for a European Civil Code.

Unjust Enrichment and Restitution

Professor Dannemann is currently completing his work on a monograph which places the German law of unjust enrichment and restitution in a comparative context, with a particular focus on English law. Oxford University Press has agreed to publish the book.

Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Professor Eisenberg finished her manuscript on the rise of the market society in England which covers the period from 1066 to 1800. It will be published by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht in the series *Kritische Studien für Geschichtswissenschaft* in autumn 2009.

She is now focusing her research activities on another project with the working title "Sport in a Society of Nation States". The central aim of this project is to integrate the study of the changing nature of international sport in the twentieth century into recent theoretical debates in the fields of area studies and transnational relations. In the process, this subject will be examined from British, European, and global perspectives. This project will also culminate in a monograph.

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

In 2008, Professor Stedman continued her research on cultural exchange with a special focus on England and France, as well as working on a number of smaller projects, among them food and drink in cultural and literary studies, the neurosciences in contemporary literature, and the literary field in the UK.

Dr Georgia Christinidis

In 2008, Georgia Christinidis began revising her doctoral dissertation on cultural agency, titled "The concept of cultural agency from modernism to cultural studies", for publication. Her interest in cultural agency has also led her to develop an interest in the role culture plays in the constitution of agents, and therefore of personal identity. In this context, she completed an article on Angela Carter's use of the *Bildungsroman* genre. She also researched the role of silence and its connection to an 'authentic' relationship with the self in a range of eighteenth century novels and presented her findings at the ESSE conference in Aarhus.

Heather Ellis

Heather Ellis is currently researching her postdoctoral project 'The Hanoverian Connection: Scholarly Exchange and Cultural Identity in Britain and Germany 1734-1800.' This project explores the impact of the so-called Personal Union, when the Crowns of Eng-

land and Hanover were united, upon cultural relations between Britain and Germany. In particular, it will explore the significance of trans-national academic networks in shaping Anglo-German relations.

Jens Ennen

Jens Ennen is currently doing research on the importance of institutions for the economic development of Germany and the United Kingdom. He has undertaken a comparative analysis of the changes in institutional arrangements between both countries. The British occupation policy in Germany after WWII is compared to those of France and the US as the other Western Allies. Resulting path dependencies are investigated in order to evaluate the contribution of the specific British policy to West Germany's post-war economic development. Furthermore, Jens is working on the use of counterfactual thinking in Welfare State evaluations.

Rita Gerlach

Rita Gerlach completed her doctoral thesis on theatre financing in Germany and the UK in the summer and successfully defended the thesis in November 2008. The thesis shows that contrary to expectations, neither subsidized theatres nor 'commercial' ones automatically produce 'better' theatre. Instead, one has to look very carefully at the mixture of financing on the one hand, and national theatre culture with its specific but often unacknowledged and implicit values on the other in order to understand which theatre system – the British or the German – actually produces 'better' theatre. Rita is currently preparing the publication of the thesis as well as writing a text book on Arts Funding which is due to be published by VS Verlag in June 2009. She left the Centre in April and is now head of marketing at the *Mecklenburgische Staatstheater* Schwerin.



The Globe Theatre - the 'better' theatre?

Sandra Müller

Sandra Müller has finished her exposé phase and is continuing her work on her PhD thesis “Cultural Exchange and Literature in Contemporary Britain” (working title). The thesis investigates how cultural transfer theory can add to literary and cultural studies, especially to the contextualization of literary works. The two main focuses of the thesis are: 1) How is cultural transfer depicted, which forms of exchange occur, through which perspective(s) and by which (aesthetic) means is it represented? 2) How do these texts relate to their contexts, what are the functions of literature in this context and what impact has the topic of cultural exchange on the literary field – and vice versa? The project concentrates mainly on novels written in the last 10 years, partly written by British authors, partly by authors with a migration background living in the UK.



Brick Lane - the novel of the same title by Monica Ali is one of Sandra's main research objects.

Marc Stauch

Marc Stauch's PhD dissertation on the law of medical negligence in England and Germany was published in August 2008 by Hart Publishing, a prestigious legal publisher based in Oxford. Marc is due to undergo his Disputation (viva voce) for the award of a doctorate by the University of Goettingen in April 2009.

Irish Studies

The “*Keltologie / Irish Studies*” project financed by the Irish Embassy, chaired by Prof Schlaeger and carried out by Prof Heinz and Karsten Schumann was successfully concluded at the end of July, evaluated by Professors Kelleher and Ó hUiginn from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and handed over to the Irish Ambassador. It is an Irish Studies e-learning project which gives access to a wide range of Irish Studies fields such as the history of the Irish language, Irish history, art, and literature. The data is compiled in

a moodle course, which is the Humboldt University's preferred e-learning platform, and will be made available for those interested in the near future.

External Doctoral Students

Sara Berendsen

Trusts im Internationalen Privatrecht.

Jessica Fischer

Jessica Fischer, an ethnology and English Studies graduate, has recently begun a doctoral thesis on constructions of identity in the UK. She will work on the symptoms of isolation and interaction in politics and postcolonial literature in the 21st century, focusing in particular on British texts and cases with a Muslim and East Asian background.

Rita Gerlach

Rita Gerlach has completed her doctoral thesis on *Theaterfinanzierung und Theaterangebot in Großbritannien und Deutschland.*

Aike Hasenheit

Die Innenhaftung bei Partnership und Personenhandels-gesellschaft.

Andriy Ilyuk

Non-Performance and Remedies in European Contract Law. A Comparative Analysis of the Acquis Principles, the Draft European Civil Code, and the Common Frame of Reference.

Zoé Jacquemin

Le droit européen des contrats: quelles frontières?

Ronald Kaduk

Der preußische Dandy. Rezeption und Transfer eines Londoner Gesellschaftsphänomens in Berlin.

Anett Löscher

Anett Löscher, an M.B.S. graduate (2004), is currently putting the finishing touches to her thesis on British universities ventures abroad, analysed from a cultural exchange studies-perspective. She seeks to combine neoinstitutionalist sociology with cultural exchange studies and uses as her case studies the plans for Asian campuses developed or in some cases actually put into practice by some British universities such as the University of Warwick and the University of Nottingham. The thesis will be submitted at Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen with Professor Gesa Stedman acting as first supervisor and examiner.

Stephen Love

European Contract Law as Implemented in France, Germany and the UK.

Maik Martin

Public Inquiries: *Anatomie einer Common Law-Institution*.

Veronica Schmieder

Veronica Schmieder, an M.B.S. graduate (2008), is currently preparing a doctoral thesis on the role of urban space in Glenn Patterson's novels. In contrast to other Northern Irish writers who concentrate on the Troubles, Patterson explores Northern Irish identity from a very different angle. Incorporating recent theoretical advances from the so-called spatial turn, Veronica Schmieder's thesis will provide an overview of Patterson's work, which has not yet received much critical attention, as well as an analysis of the different functions that constructions of contemporary urban spaces have in his novels.

Stephan Schwanke

The thesis on "Endless Leisure? Australian Surf Culture from 1945 Onwards" examines the development of "surf culture" in Australia after the Second World War and its impact on Australian society. In the existing literature "surf culture" is mostly identified as a part of the Australian "beach cultures". The thesis argues that this approach is too narrow and "Australia-centric". Therefore, it suggests an alternative approach. It places greater emphasis on overall changes within Australian society and the relationship to Great Britain, and treats "surf culture" as an early forerunner of the current "cultural industries" models.

Florian Stärk

Minimum Capital and Creditor Protection: the UK Limited Compared to Other Forms of Companies.

Ruti Ungar

Ruti Ungar is currently finishing her thesis on the boxing debate in late Georgian England, 1780-1820. The thesis is a cultural study of late Georgian England as it is reflected in the heated debate on boxing which took place at the time of the Napoleonic wars. Based on the premise that sport was an important site in which various social, political, and cultural struggles were being fought, the thesis investigates what issues were negotiated within the debate on boxing. Above all, it looks at the debate as one of the discursive areas for the articulation of class, gender, and race.

Sandra Vivian Wagner

Verbraucherschutz bei Kaufvertragsschluss im Internet nach englischem und deutschem Recht.

Publications

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---: Continued to act as General Editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum*.



EISENBERG, Ch.: "Die Fußball-Weltmeisterschaft. Seit wann ist sie ein Weltereignis?" S. Nacke, R. Unkelbach, T. Werron (eds.): *Weltereignisse. Theoretische und empirische Perspektiven*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 2008. 87-100.

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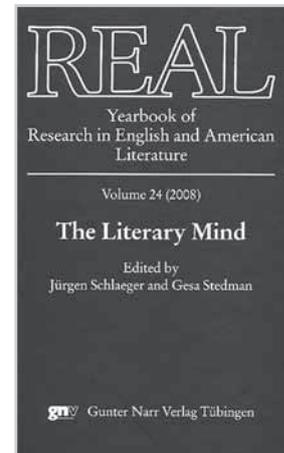
MÜLLER, S.: Rez. "Rose Tremain, *The Road Home*. London: Vintage Books, 2007." *Hard Times* 84 (2008), 45-47.



SCHLAEGER, J.: "The Ethical Dimension of Cognitive Poetics and 'A Mechanism of Sensibility'." A. Erll, H. Grabes, A. Nünning (eds.): *Ethics in Culture. The Dissemination of Values through Literature and Other*

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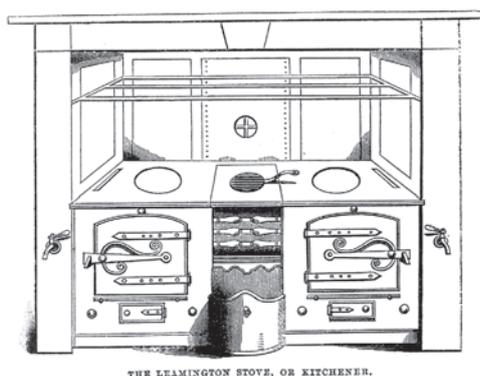


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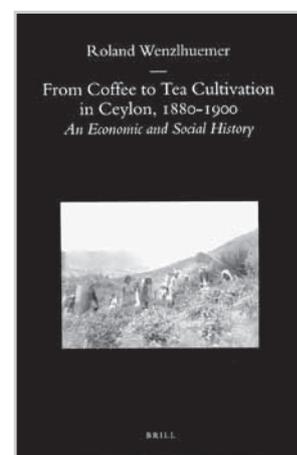
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Conferences and Workshops

Conference “The Literary Mind”

In April 2008, an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars met at the newly opened Centre in Mohrenstrasse to discuss the different ways in which literary studies, literature and the neurosciences might meet. Ranging from applications of cognitive studies to literature through cognitive approaches to literary analysis to more critical accounts of the use of narrative in the neurosciences, the conference contributions engendered lively debates among the participants.



Professors Patrick Hogan, Mark Turner, and Valentine Cunningham discussing the topic.

The debates are reflected in the conference proceedings, published as *The Literary Mind*, ed. Jürgen Schlaeger and Gesa Stedman, (Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature 24), Tübingen: Narr, 2008. The collection of essays assesses an emerging field of research which will continue to be as controversial as it is stimulating to both cognitivists and their critics.

Cultural Industries and Cultural Politics: Britain 1750-2000

This 2008 ADEF annual conference was organised by Professor Eisenberg, Centre for British Studies, and Professor Andreas Gestrich, German Historical Institute London, and took place in Mülheim/Ruhr from 2-4 May 2008.

From the 18th century at the latest, when the market society forcefully established itself, and urbanisation caused an increased demand for culture, public cultural life in Britain developed on a commercial basis. Henceforth the plastic arts, theatre, opera and concert organisers, sports organisations, and publishing houses

worked in close co-operation with the press and the advertising and consumer goods industries, while professional bodies arranged cultural events on a profit-making basis. These “cultural industries” served a clearly growing proportion of the demand for cultural events, which they, in turn, actively sought to increase. Alternative suppliers such as the Court, the Church, the nobility, and urban authorities, the potential organisers of public cultural politics, were only able to have an indirect influence. However, there were tensions between “cultural industries” and “cultural politics”.

Social, economic, and cultural historians from Britain and Germany analysed these tensions, taking the spheres of sport and music as examples.



One of the pictures presented in Ruti Ungar’s talk on “The Commercialisation of Honour: Boxing in late 18th-century England”: Figurine c. 1813 of boxer Thomas Molineaux (c. 1784-1818)

The conference was structured according to a twofold principle. On the one hand, the development of the two spheres over time was examined. On the other, for roughly marked out periods, the various social and political functions of the cultural industries were dealt with. For the 18th century, this was about the contribution to the enjoyment of the upper and middle classes, for the 19th the general balance of power between state and society; here particular attention was paid to the competition between culture offered commercially and privately (clubs, associations, patronage). For the 20th century sport and music were regarded as businesses. Finally, a glance at the early 21st century examined the attempts by New Labour to steer the so-called “creative industries” politically. Against the background of the previous centuries this could be regarded as a completely logical utilisation of private commercial initiatives for state cultural policy.

A detailed conference report is available on <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=2154&count=8&recno=1&sort=datum&order=down&search=Cultural+Industries>. In November 2009 a follow-up conference, in which more attention will focus on comparative issues, will take place in London. There, the particular “economy” of the cultural industries will also be dealt with in terms of its possible contribution to historical-political research.

Workshop Higher Education Teaching

In April 2008, the third higher education teaching workshop took place at the Centre. It was co-organized with the Association for the Study of British Cultures and chaired by Professors Jana Gohrisch (Hanover) and Gesa Stedman (Berlin). University lecturers of all levels discussed how to organise effective cultural studies courses and talked over dinner about their research projects, in particular PhD dissertations.

The following morning, the third workshop of a series on film and film analysis was chaired by Professor Peter Drexler (formerly at the university of Potsdam). It focused on postmodernism in film. A lively network of mainly younger scholars has emerged from the successful series of workshops over the past few years which will be continued in 2009.

Siggen: Conference for Younger Literary Scholars

In September 2008, Professors Stedman and Schlaeger organized a conference for younger literary scholars from a number of disciplines (English, American Studies, German, French, and Comparative Literature) in the framework of the *Siggener Zeit Programme* of the Alfred-Toepfer-Stiftung F.V.S., Hamburg, at their conference centre Gut Siggen on the Baltic Coast. It was a follow-up of the pilot project initiated by Prof Schlaeger in 2006. Scholars at different stages of their careers and with a broad range of interests discussed the state of literary theory, themes and abuses of interdisciplinarity and the strategies needed for reorganizing literary studies in order to re-establish a common platform for fruitful exchange not only between highly specialized sub-disciplines.

As an important off-shoot of the conference a new internet-based review and discussion format has recently been launched, entitled Siggen Dialogue, which aims to invigorate scholarly debates among the humanities in Germany.



Young scholars discussing the future of literary studies.

Working Group on Cultural Studies

The summer meeting of the working group on cultural studies took place at the Centre in June 2008, following on from a strategic repositioning a year beforehand which had led to a number of new initiatives for the group which has been meeting for over ten years. At the Berlin session in summer, the group discussed a joint topic for the first time and had five presentations on how to approach terrorism as a topic for research and teaching, concentrating on the political focus of cultural studies and how to teach it. After lunch, the discussion continued with an assessment of the collected teaching materials the group has archived as well as with a look at the place of cultural studies in the new BA/MA-system of courses at German universities.



A powerpoint presentation by G. Christinidis entitled "Cultural Agency".

ADEF Junior Workshop

In December 2008, the *Arbeitskreis für deutsche England-Forschung* (German Association for the Study of British History and Politics) held its first Junior Workshop at the Centre for British Studies, initiated by Tobias Becker (FU Berlin) and Anne Neubauer (HU Berlin).

Six PhD and Postdoc students from universities all over Germany presented their dissertation projects, ranging from British history of the early modern period to the interwar period. Presentations included varying topics such as the importance of William III for the political debates after his death (Ulrich Niggemann), the perception of the British constitution by Prussian political reformers (Uwe Ziegler), the biography of the Germanophile British historian G.P. Gooch (Anne Blaudzun) and the visit of a Glaswegian delegation to the German city exhibition in Düsseldorf in 1912 (Carl Philipp Schuck). The final presentations looked at the history of British and German Jews during and after the First World War (Matthias Thorns) and the Zionist colonization of Israel during the British mandate in Palestine (Karin Abdel-Khaleq).

The workshop showed that a comparative approach to British and German history, once rare but vigorously called for, is now widely adopted and often enriched by taking into account cases of cultural exchange and transfer. As the animated discussions proved, communication between historians working on different eras is not only possible but also very fertile. The next ADEF Junior Workshop will be held in autumn 2009 at the Centre for British Studies. Students interested in participating should contact Tobias Becker, Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Koserstraße 20, 14195 Berlin, tobias.becker@fu-berlin.de.

Interdisciplinary Workshop “Counterfactual Thinking: Parlour Game or Analytical Tool?”

The workshop was organised jointly with the University of Lucerne and brought together scholars from a broad spectrum of disciplines - including psychology, economics, law, political science, and history - to discuss the purpose and practice of applying counterfactual methods in academic research.

The keynote lecture on “The Psychology of Counterfactual Thinking” was delivered by the psychologist Neal Riese (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). Among the speakers were Roland Wenzlhuemer with a talk on “Counterfactual Thinking as an Analytical Tool: Benefits and Pitfalls” and Jens Ennen with his paper on “The Evaluation of Welfare State Performance: Modelling a Counterfactual World”.

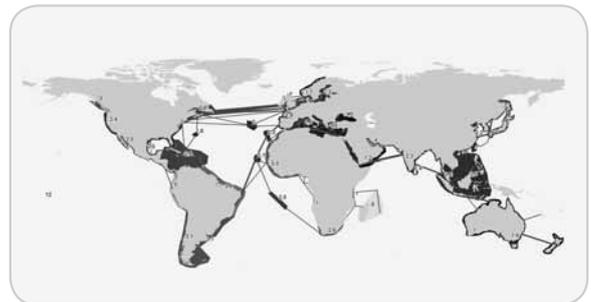
By stimulating interdisciplinary exchange on a method that is treated very differently across the disciplines, the workshop allowed fascinating new insights into the analytical potential of counterfactual thinking. In order to both share such insights and establish a common interdisciplinary terminology on the subject, the workshop contributions have since been extended and revised. In May 2009 they will be published in a special issue of the journal *Historical Social Research* special issue on counterfactual thinking.



Thinking about what might have been ...

Study Days

A new colloquium-style format for research-based discussions was initiated by Gesa Stedman in 2008. At monthly Study Days, interested members of staff and guests meet to read and talk about recent theoretical developments in cultural and literary studies. After the first two Study Days which were devoted to imperial history (Roland Wenzlhuemer, see below) and post-colonialism and cultural exchange respectively (Jessica Fischer, Karolina Golimowska, and Sandra Müller), the winter semester was spent on dissecting trends in cultural studies on the basis of Doris Bachmann-Medick's book *Cultural Turns*.



The global telegraph network in the year 1900, from a lecture by R. Wenzlhuemer on “Asymmetries in Cultural Information Flows” given on the first study day.

Research Colloquium

5 February

Gesa Stedman

English Department, Universität Gießen

Diskursanalyse und Regionalstudien

17 June

Rita Gerlach, Berlin

Wer hat das 'bessere' Theater - Deutschland oder Großbritannien?

1 July

Ruti Ungar, Berlin

The Construction of the Body Politic and the Politics of the Body: the Case of Minority Boxers in late Georgian England

15 July

Sandra Wagner, Berlin

Verbraucherschutz und Vertragsschluss im Internet: ein Vergleich zwischen englischem und deutschem Recht

In addition to these discussions of individual scholars' projects the Centre's academic staff uses the colloquium for developing a common research agenda on Britain as an actor in transnational relations.

EVENTS

Public Lectures

'Warfare State' oder 'Welfare State' ? Deutschland und England zwischen Krise und Krieg 1933-1945

Adam Tooze

10 January

Thanks to resources made available by the *Stiftung Lufbrückendank*, the Centre has launched a new series of annual lectures. The first *Stiftung Lufbrückendank* Annual Lecture was held by Dr Adam Tooze, Reader in 20th-Century History at the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge and Director of Studies and Gurnee Hart Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. This lecture took place in the *Senatssaal* of the Humboldt Universität.



Adam Tooze

Dr Tooze examined the question “‘Warfare State’ oder ‘Welfare State’? *Deutschland und England zwischen Krise und Krieg 1933-1945*”, a topic related to his recent book *Ökonomie der Zerstörung* (The Wages of Destruction. The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy, 2006). Dr Tooze summarized the political, economic, and social transformations which resulted from the wars and other crises in the middle of the 20th century and, going beyond his much discussed book, presented a British-German comparison of the respective national experiences in this period of crisis.

In 2009, the series will be continued with a lecture by Prof Tim Blanning (Cambridge) on “Great Britain and Prussia in the Long Eighteenth Century: Two Roads to Stability, Two Roads to Revolution”.

Book Presentation

*Öffentlichkeit zwischen Krieg und Frieden
Kommunikationsrevolutionen in Großbritannien und dem
Deutschen Reich 1900 bis 1918*

1 February

Florian Altenhöner and Dominik Geppert introduced and discussed their recently published books about the press, public, and politics in the Third Reich and in Great Britain at the beginning of the 20th century. The discussion was chaired by Professor Ute Daniel, TU Braunschweig.

Florian Altenhöner's PhD thesis *Kommunikation und Kontrolle. Gerüchte und städtische Öffentlichkeit in Berlin und London 1914/1918* was written at the University of Freiburg. Dominik Geppert qualified as a professor with his habilitation *Pressekriege. Öffentlichkeit und Diplomatie in den deutsch-britischen Beziehungen* from the Freie Universität Berlin. Both books have been published through the series *Veröffentlichungen des Deutschen Historischen Instituts* (German Historical Institute publications) at the Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag.



Both books could be purchased after the presentation.

Europäische Literatur und/als Zwischen- WeltenSchreiben

Ottmar Ette

4 February

The lecture addressed the concept of European literature and how it can be situated within the context of world literatures today. Ottmar Ette suggested new ways of thinking about the re-configuration of European literature(s) in a period of accelerated globalisation, with a view to moving beyond the polarities of “Nationalliteratur” and “Weltliteratur” (national literature and world literature).

Professor Ottmar Ette has held the chair of Romance literature and linguistics since October 1995 at the University of Potsdam. He was one of the founders



Ottmar Ette

of the ForLaBB (*Forschungsnetzwerk Lateinamerika Berlin-Brandenburg*), founder and co-editor of the online journal *HiN – Alexander von Humboldt im Netz* and co-editor of the journal *Iberoamericana*.

This event was held in German.

Shakespeare and Law

Gary Watt

26 May

Did Shakespeare have legal training? Did Shakespeare like lawyers? What influence did the law and lawyers exert on Shakespeare's works? What influence does Shakespeare exert on lawyers, and on UK and EU law, today? How should we understand the character of Shylock in Shakespeare's "law play", *The Merchant of Venice*?



Gary Watt

Gary Watt MA (Oxon), who is a solicitor and Reader in Law at the University of Warwick, as well as Professeur Invité, Université René Descartes, Paris V, addressed these, and other, questions in his lecture on "Shakespeare and the Law". He was the co-organiser of an international conference on 'Shakespeare and the Law' held at the University of Warwick in 2007 and is the co-editor, with Paul Raffield, of a new book

arising from the conference: *Shakespeare and the Law*, 2008. Gary Watt's recent publications include the third edition of *Trusts and Equity*, OUP, 2008, and numerous articles on law and other subjects in the humanities. He is the Joint Editor of the journal *Law and Humanities*.

Stiftung Luftbrückendank

Die Berliner Luftbrücke 1948-1949 und die Stiftung Luftbrückendank

Heinz-Gerd Reese

2 June

What were the causes of the blockade? How did the respective politicians manage to convince the general public to share the responsibility of the Berlin Airlift so shortly after the war? Enriched by film and contemporary source materials, these and other questions were tackled in this Monday Lecture.

Willy Brandt established the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank* (Airlift Gratitude Foundation) at the 10th anniversary of the *Blockade* and the Berlin Airlift (1948/49) in 1959. Its aim is to express solidarity between Berlin and the countries who organised and were responsible for the Airlift. Heinz-Gerd Reese is the managing director of the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*.



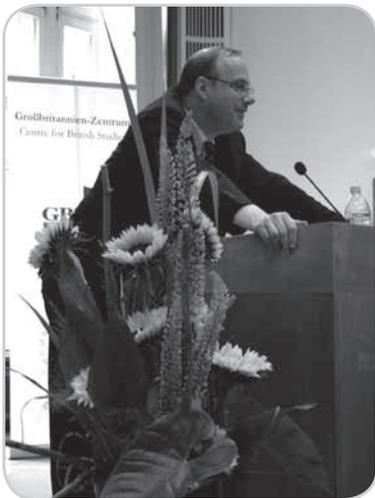
Heinz-Gerd Reese (left)

Farewell Lecture: Jürgen Schlaeger

Jedermann ein Robinson

10 July

Prof Jürgen Schlaeger officially took his leave from his professional life as director and professor for British literature and culture at the Centre. The farewell event started in HU's *Reentersaal* with an address by Humboldt's president Prof Christoph Marksches who thanked Prof Schlaeger for his enthusiasm for and commitment to not only the Centre but also the whole university.



Prof. Markschie, the President of Humboldt University, thanked Prof. Schlaeger for his work.

He was followed by the former British ambassador to Germany and now chairman of the Centre's Advisory Board, Sir Paul Lever, who explicitly stressed the impact of Jürgen Schlaeger's efforts for the enhancement of German-British relations in Berlin and elsewhere. Prof. Eisenberg, his successor as the Centre's director, then gave the audience a short outline of Prof. Schlaeger's professional life and activities concluding that his guidance, his diplomatic and representative skills, his stamina and his passion made the Centre what it is. The comic interlude consisted of thirteen short presentations by staff members and colleagues, each focusing on one specific aspect of Jürgen Schlaeger's career and thirteen years as the Centre's director. 'Jürgen the austrophile', 'Jürgen the boss', 'Jürgen the supervisor' and 'Jürgen as a friend and colleague' were amongst the topics covered.

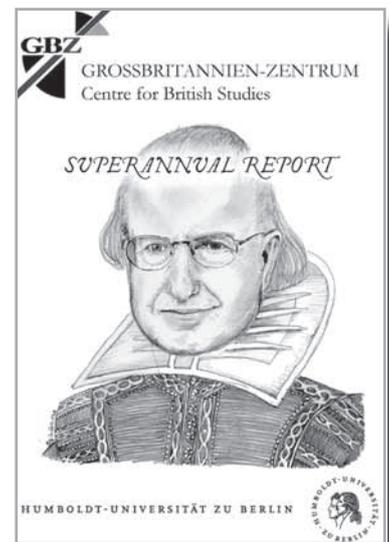
Then, Prof. Schlaeger held his farewell lecture entitled "*Jedermann ein Robinson/ Everyman a Robinson*" where he traced the importance of a children's version of Robinson Crusoe's adventures among his own early readings to the mythology of self-reliance which the text enshrined and which gave the book world-literature status.



Everyman a Robinson.

A Jazz Trio, which played Professor Schlaeger's favourite tunes, gave the event a note of festivity.

The lecture was followed by a wine reception in Humboldt's newly renovated *Lichthof*. Friends, family, and colleagues were afterwards invited to an informal dinner at the "Cum Laude" restaurant at Humboldt University. Here the staff expressed their thanks and said goodbye to Prof. Schlaeger by presenting him with his own individual (super)annual report and with a personal version of the traditional song "Auld Lang Syne".



Should good old Jürgen be forgot? ...

It was a long and lovely evening where people were able to exchange reminiscences of joint adventures and listen to Prof. Schlaeger's manifold plans for an exciting and, by no means, quiet retirement.

Of course I am not Macbeth and have no murderous instincts – and yet when the Shakespearean hero ruminates "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well / It were done quickly" I can sympathize with his doubts. My farewell was indeed done quickly, but I am still struggling with the trammeling-up of the consequences for myself. The other day somebody recommended patience by saying that it will at least take a year – so I will be patient, concentrate on the things I always wanted to do after retirement and enjoy the memories of the wonderful and loving farewell given to me by the Centre's staff. The rest is silence – or nearly that.
Jürgen Schlaeger

Inaugural Lecture: Gesa Stedman

Having one's cake and eating it – Food and Drink in Cultural and Literary Studies

20 October

Gesa Stedman's inaugural lecture was entitled "To have one's cake and eat it – Food and Drink in Cultural and Literary Studies". Gesa Stedman spoke about food and drink and the different ways in which different disciplines treat this seemingly mundane human activity.



Prof Eisenberg welcoming Prof Stedman at the GBZ.

Basing her talk on three examples from three historical periods – a Restoration comedy, a scene from Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*, and the latest activities of the celebrity chef Jamie Oliver – Gesa Stedman showed that there is more to food and drink than meets the eye. Eating and drinking are expressive of individual and collective identity and are closely associated with class issues. One cannot usefully study it without recourse to sociology, history, political science, and literary studies, as her presentation showed. The event was followed by a reception.

Inauguration Lecture: Jonathan Mance, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary

Britain's Emerging Constitution?

31 October

We were very pleased that the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mance, one of the twelve members of the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords (also known more familiarly as "Law Lords"), gave a speech marking the opening of the Centre's academic year 2008/09.

In his profound and thought-provoking lecture, entitled "Britain's Emerging Constitution?", his Lordship blended history, politics, literature, and law to develop a multifaceted view of British constitutional law today, explaining why Britain has no codified constitution, outlining the major changes introduced since 1997,

the remaining challenges, and merits and dangers of the most recent Constitutional Renewal Bill 2008. A substantial final part was devoted to the discussion about whether the lack of a written constitution matters. Drawing on comparisons with notably German constitutional law, but also on his experience as chair of the House of Lords sub-committee responsible for scrutinizing the impact of EU law, Lord Mance gave a careful and considerate analysis of the pros and cons, showing some preference for the advantages of a clearer demarcation between the three state powers which a codified constitution entails, but apparently also willing to settle with the "day to day social harmony and compromises between its diverse elements" which the present, less formal British constitutional arrangement entails.



Lord Mance

The lecture was followed by a reception and has since been published in the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum*, <http://ouclf.iuscomp.org>.

British Humour in the German Adventszeit

Mark Britton

8 December

British humour in Berlin: students, alumni and the general public were invited to the Centre for British Studies for Mark Britton's Comedy Show "*Weihnachten in Britton*" (Christmas in Britton) in the Reutersaal of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

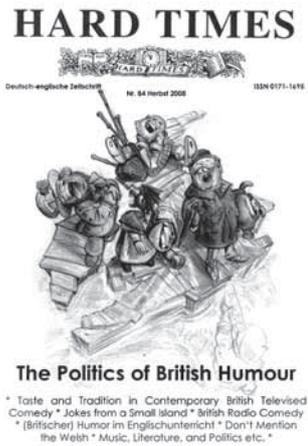
Mark Britton, "Entertainer of the Year", took his audience on a trip of the most important Christmas traditions on the island and presented British humour "at its best" in a successful mix of stand-up comedy, pantomime, situation comedy, slapstick, and dance routines. Britton has toured worldwide with various



productions; amongst others he has appeared at the *Quatsch Comedy Club* in Berlin; he also writes plays and directs shows for theatre, radio, and television.

This event was in English and was organised in cooperation with the magazine *Hard Times* and the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*.

At the end of the show the latest edition of *Hard Times* was presented with the title "The Politics of British Humour". *Hard Times* is a German-English magazine which deals with the latest political, social, and cultural issues.



This *Hard Times* issue does not cover the latest jokes from or about Brits, Scots, the Welsh or the Irish. It rather invites the reader to question his or her pre-conceptions about "British humour" and examines regional, class, and cultural differences and asks whether "British" is the correct 'label'. Articles about political cartoons, humour in the foreign language classroom, "On Humour, the Macabre and the Politics of Imperialism" and others reveal that there is "Nothing Funny About Being British".

This event was organised in co-operation with the Open University:

Towards the Break-Up of Britain? What is different this time?

Gerry Mooney

15 December

The idea that the UK is increasingly displaying signs of fragmentation or disintegration is hardly new. The UK itself has always been an unstable and 'shaky' project, reflecting its position as a multi-national state. However, with the recent electoral successes of the Scottish Nationalist Party, and the promise of a referendum on Scottish Independence by 2011, does this mean, finally, that the UK is on the path to disintegration - or are such claims founded on a misunderstanding of the nature of the UK today and of UK politics? In this talk Gerry Mooney explored these and related issues in a thought-provoking and challenging way.



The audience in anticipation of an interesting lecture.

Dr Gerry Mooney is Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Staff Tutor in the Faculty of Social Sciences at The Open University in Scotland. He is also a guest lecturer at the Centre for British Studies. His research interests include New Labour's social policy agenda, the impact of welfare state 'reforms', public sector 'modernisation' and urban 'regeneration'.

The lecture was followed by a reception and the Centre's Christmas party.



Gerry Mooney (middle) and students at the Centre's Christmas party following his talk.

The Year's Activities

January

Prof Schlaeger took part in the *Walberberg Seminar*, the largest and longest running annual British literature seminar held outside the UK. This year's seminar was held at Akademie Schmöckwitz, Berlin on the theme 'Rooted Realities and Maps of Migration'. * Prof Dannemann chaired the 9th meeting of the Redaction Committee of the Acquis Group, held at the Royal Academy for Dutch Literature and Language, Gent. * Rita Gerlach organized a film night with the M.B.S. students at the Centre showing "Elizabeth". Following this, Sandra and Rita took the students to watch "Elizabeth - The Golden Age" at the cinema. * Rita Gerlach and Sandra Müller attended the meeting of the *Arbeitskreis Cultural Studies*. * Rita Gerlach also attended the Meeting of the Regional Group of the *Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft e.V.*

February

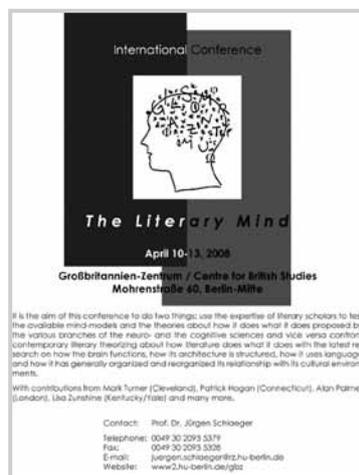
Prof Schlaeger attended the KAIROS prize-giving ceremony in the *Deutsche Schauspielhaus*, Hamburg. The prize went to Timea Junghaus, Curator and first Roma Art Historian in Hungary. * He also gave a paper on "Literature and Emotional Intelligence" at the 7th European Social Science History Conference in Lisbon.

March

The Centre hosted the 10th meeting of the Redaction Committee of the Acquis Group. Prof Dannemann chaired the meeting. * Prof Eisenberg took part in a meeting to select applicants for grants of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn. * Prof Dannemann attended a conference on 'The Draft Common Frame of Reference for European Contract Law', and a meeting of the Joint Network on European Private Law, both held at the European Law Academy, Trier.

April

The Centre hosted the international conference 'The Literary Mind', organized by Prof Schlaeger, Prof Stedman and Sandra Müller. Prof Stedman gave a paper entitled "Brain Plots: Neuroscience and the Contemporary Novel".



Prof Eisenberg participated in a meeting of the Advisory Council for the "Heroes" exhibition in the Westphalian Industrial Museum, Dortmund. * Sandra Müller gave a lecture entitled "International and Interdisciplinary: the Master in British Studies" on the occasion of a study fair at Berlin's town hall. * Prof Schlaeger attended the Annual Conference of the German Shakespeare Society in Vienna '*Shakespeares Essen: Bühne und Bankett*'. * Prof Dannemann co-chaired the Plenary Meeting of the Acquis Group, held at the Royal Library, Copenhagen. * Sandra Müller, Jens Ennen, and Dr Wenzlhuemer took part in a didactical skill enhancement course called "*Lehren lernen*." * The Centre and Gesa Stedman hosted the third Higher Education Teaching Seminar for the Association for the Study of British Cultures which was attended by Sandra Müller Rita Gerlach, and Georgia Christinidis. * Prof Dannemann attended a meeting of the Compilation and Redaction Team for the Draft Common Frame of Reference, held at the University of Edinburgh. * Just after having arrived in the new premises, the M.B.S. course was officially re-accredited. The expert group who evaluated the course came to the conclusion that the M.B.S. is a unique study programme without competing and/or valid counterparts in Germany or elsewhere. The course was able to further improve upon its performance since its first accreditation in 2004.

May

On 19 May, the class of 2006-07 celebrated its graduation in the context of a housewarming party for the new Centre for British Studies premises, which was attended, amongst others, by the British Ambassador Sir Michael Arthur.



Happy to be an M.B.S. graduate.

Rita Gerlach, in her capacity as Treasurer, attended the meeting of the Board of the German Association for the Study of British Cultures in Bochum. * The 27th Annual Conference of ADEF on 'Cultural Industries and Cultural Politics' took place in Mülheim/Ruhr. It was organised by Prof Eisenberg and

Prof A. Gestrich from the German Historical Institute London. On this occasion she also organised a workshop on 'History' together with Prof W. Steinmetz from the University of Bielefeld. * Prof Dannemann gave a paper on "International scope of the rights to equality and liberty under the German Basic Law" at the annual Academic Workshop held by the Law Faculty of the Humboldt-Universität. * Sandra Müller, responsible for the Centre's PR, took part in a 4-day course on public relations skill called "*Kompetent in die Öffentlichkeit*". * Prof Dannemann attended the North America Meeting 2008 of the Commercial Bar Association, held at the Hotel de Rome, Berlin. * Jens Ennen and Dr Wenzlhuemer took part in a didactical skill enhancement course called "*Spaß an der Lehre*." * Prof Schlaeger went to Dublin and Maynooth to discuss the progress of the Irish Studies project with Professors Kelleher and O'hUiginn. * On 28 May, Prof Schlaeger gave his last lecture as a full-time professor and celebrated the event by an impromptu tea party with staff and students.

June

Within the teaching unit 'Project Management' (taught by Sandra Müller) the M.B.S. students prepared a project for the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* entitled "Mind the Gap – Di/Visions in Britain and Berlin".



Mind the Gap:
Di/Visions in Britain
and Germany

Prof Dannemann attended a conference on "Towards a European Legal Methodology? - The theory and practice of research methodology in law" at the University of Tilburg, and gave a presentation on comparative research methodology. * Prof Schlaeger attended the annual dinner of the German Chamber of Commerce in London. * Dr Wenzlhuemer did archival work at the archives of the Swiss *Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafverwaltung* (PTT) in Berne and in the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) archives in Geneva, Switzerland (funded by DFG Travel Funds). * The first

GBZ Study Day took place with a presentation by Dr Wenzlhuemer who introduced the group's members to his new research project on the history of telegraphy. * Rita Gerlach presented her Work in Progress during the doctoral colloquium in the course of the GBZ's research project "Culture and Commerce" under the title "The best theatre in the world – Wer hat es besser: Deutschland oder Großbritannien?" * Prof Stedman hosted the June meeting of the *Arbeitskreis Kulturstudien* which was attended by S. Müller, G. Christinidis, R. Gerlach, and J. Ennen. Sandra gave a paper on how to teach a seminar on terrorism.

July

On the occasion of Prof Schlaeger's farewell event the Centre's Advisory Board held its annual meeting to discuss the state of the Centre after the move. Topics were the new premises, the Centre's finances, the M.B.S., and the Centre's ongoing events. It was stated that the Centre is in a very good state of health. However, difficulties with visas for non-EU-students were identified as a potential problem which the members of the Board could help to solve. As always, the Board also talked to the M.B.S. students in order to get an idea of how they felt at the Centre and how their studies were progressing. * The summer semester at the GBZ ended, as is the custom, with an end-of-term party. There was a barbecue in the Centre's new courtyard. Afterwards some students went off to have a short but well-deserved holiday, and some to take up their internship immediately, whilst others carried on studying by writing papers and assessments.



Celebrating the end of a work-intensive semester.

Prof Dannemann attended a conference on "The Academic Draft of a Common Frame of Reference", held at the University of Münster. * Dr Wenzlhuemer attended the Second European Congress in World and Global History on 'World Orders in Global History' and gave a paper on "Global Communication Networks as Structural Representations: From the British

to the American World". * The second GBZ Study Day took place during which MA theses and doctoral projects by Karolina Golimowska, Sandra Müller, and Jessica Fischer were presented and discussed. * Prof Dannemann chaired the 11th Redaction Committee meeting of the Acquis Group, held at the University of Münster.

August

Prof Schlaeger and Dr Christinidis attended the bi-annual conference of the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE) in Aarhus, Denmark. Prof Schlaeger gave a paper at the Round Table "History, Sociology and Politics within the field of British Studies". Dr. Georgia Christinidis presented a paper entitled "The Silence of Authenticity".

September

Prof Eisenberg gave a paper on "*Die Unsterblichkeit des Sporthelden und die Herabsetzung der athletischen Leistung*" at the conference '*Die Helden-Maschine*', organised by the Westphalian Industrial Museum, Dortmund. * Prof Dannemann attended a meeting of the Compilation and Redaction Team for the Draft Common Frame of Reference, held at the Royal Academy for Dutch Literature and Language in Gent. * Prof Stedman, Sandra Müller, Dr Christinidis, Prof Schlaeger, and Dr Wenzlhuemer attended the Siggen Conference on the 'Future of Literary Studies', which took place at Gut Siggen, the country house retreat of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation. * On the occasion of the International Literature Festival in Berlin, Sandra Müller and Georgia Christinidis met young authors and talked about possible lectures they could give to our students, among them Owen Sheers (Wales) and Rattawut Lapcharoensap (Thailand/USA). * Prof Dannemann chaired the 12th Redaction Committee meeting of the Acquis Group, held at the University of La Rochelle. * The third GBZ Study Day was devoted to the discussion of Doris Bachmann-Mehdick's book *Cultural Turns* which was continued during the next Study Day meetings in October and November.

October

Prof Dannemann attended a conference organised by the French Presidency of the European Community on 'Which European Contract Law for the European Union?', held at the Sorbonne.



First day - first impressions.

The 9th class of M.B.S. students started their course and got to know each other on the first day of the semester. * Prof Eisenberg held the opening lecture on "The Image of the Athlete in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" at the conference 'A Whole New Game: Expanding the Boundaries of the History of Sport', organised by the German Historical Institute in Washington, USA. * Prof Stedman gave her inaugural lecture on food and drink in cultural and literary studies. * On the occasion of the first introductory week of the M.B.S. course Heinz-Gerd Reese, *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*, gave a talk on "The Making of Berlin" exclusively for the Centre's students.



Introductory talk on Berlin's history.

November

At a workshop on '*Gesellschaft ohne Frieden? Kriegserfahrungen und Disziplinierungsregime in Europa und Nordamerika 1924-1929*', Prof Eisenberg gave a paper on "*Sport als Disziplinierungsinstrument zwischen den Weltkriegen*". This workshop was organised by colleagues from Humboldt's and the University of Tübingen's History Faculties and took place in Schwanenwerder near Berlin. * Together with Rayk Meckel, University of Lucerne, Dr Wenzlhuemer organised the interdisciplinary workshop on 'Counterfactual Thinking: Parlour Game or Analytical Tool?'. * The M.B.S. students visited the British

Embassy in Germany in Wilhelmstrasse, around the corner from the Centre. They were shown the architectural specialities of the building and were told how the embassy is structured. The tour was followed by a talk with Andy Smith, head of the Environment and Energy team.



Visiting the official British representation in Germany.

Sandra Müller participated at the Annual Conference of the German Association for the Study of British Culture in Oldenburg, titled 'Post-secular Britain? Religion, Secularity, and Cultural Agency'. She gave a paper on her thesis at the 'Post-Graduate Forum'. * Prof Stedman attended the annual meeting of the editors and the editorial committee of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures*, which took place in Oldenburg. * Prof Dannemann co-chaired the Plenary Meeting of the Acquis Group, held at the Catholic University at Leuven. * Some of the staff went to a reception given by the British Embassy in Berlin the day before the Football Friendly Germany-England (which England won). Heather Ellis even won two tickets for the match in a tombola and, together with Jens, was able to witness the event live.



Heather Ellis enjoying friendly football at the *Olympia-Stadion*.

Prof Dannemann gave a paper on "Freedom of Contract: the German Experience" at a conference on 'Freedom of Contract', held at Sapienza, University of Rome. * Rita Gerlach successfully defended her doctoral thesis.

December

Sandra and Jens represented the Centre at the Christmas reception of the British Council. * A very busy year ended with the Centre's Christmas party where British food and drink specialities went down well. The final act was a joint watching of a heart-warming Christmas film with more than one wet eye ...



In a merry Christmas mood.

Public Relations

Media Contributions

Prof Eisenberg was interviewed by the German public broadcasting station *WDR II (Redaktion Zeitzeichen)* in January. The editorial staff of the broadcasting station put together a panel of experts, discussing the formation of the Independent Labour Party. She also gave an interview on the sport memorial in Berlin-Grünau for the programme "*Clio auf Sendung*" and the topic "*Erinnerungskulturen*" ("Memory Cultures"). It appeared in December on *Deutschlandfunk*. Prof Dannemann gave an interview to the German daily newspaper *taž* on the political fallout of Labour's defeat at local council elections in England and Wales.

Prof Schlaeger appeared on *InfoRadio rbb (93,1)* on a programme called "*Botschaftermatinée*" (matinee with the Ambassador). The British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Michael Arthur, Jürgen Schlaeger, and Manfred Görtemaker (history professor at Potsdam University) discussed various aspects of the United Kingdom, among other things the implications deriving from its geographical position as an island on British identity and British humour.

Sandra Müller also represented the Centre for British Studies at the *Master Messe*, a fair at the Berlin city hall presenting different Master programmes.

The Centre and the M.B.S.: Press and Online Coverage

The Centre for British Studies continues its efforts to appear in the local and nationwide press. It provides articles and press releases for electronic and print media. Every year, the M.B.S. programme is advertised as well. The staff's appearances in the media were documented and, where possible, made available in the Press Archive on the Centre's website.



Attracting bright young people is not a problem for the Centre.

A special issue of the German daily newspaper *Tagesspiegel* published a long article on the Centre, its research, and the opportunities provided for the Master students. The article also tells the success story of an alumna. In “Yes, we’re British”, the Centre and the M.B.S. are highlighted as “internationally unique”. The Centre appears on a regular basis in Humboldt’s online and print media (www.hu-berlin.de and the monthly newspaper *HUMBOLDT*), which covered all public lectures, the directorial change, and the move to the new premises as well as some M.B.S. adverts, scholarship offers and the reaccreditation results, to name just a few. Gesa Stedman’s inauguration was also covered by the academic magazine *humboldt spektrum*.



The adverts for the M.B.S. programme continued to appear in local and national newspapers as well as on national and international online platforms and newsletters. The M.B.S. was announced in the Humboldt-Special of Berlin’s daily newspapers *Berliner Zeitung* and *Tagesspiegel*, the grants were announced on the HU homepage, www.jobs.ac.uk and in various online communities. More emphasis was placed on the web: the Centre reviewed and updated its appearances and profiles in various internet databases, e.g. daad.de and www.studieren.de, and acquired new channels, such as www.mastersportal.eu. New posters and postcards placed at student meeting points (e.g. cafeterias) have also added to the marketing material.

News

The Centre as a Family-Friendly Institution

The recent trend of family-friendly higher education institutions has become increasingly important for the Centre’s staff and students. In anticipation of measures to be taken by the whole university, the Centre has adopted a new family-friendly policy.

This includes, inter alia, a shared parent-and-child workspace, a child-friendly social room for guests, students, and staff which includes a changing table, soft mattress, and toy box. Flexi-time and core office hours help staff juggle responsibilities at home and at work. Having the children at the office, accommodating the requirements of staff and students with older children or elderly relatives, and providing child-care facilities at workshops and conferences are also part of the measures taken to improve the Centre’s status as a family-friendly place for research, study, and work.

As a member of the university’s committee on family-friendliness, Gesa Stedman helps to implement similar initiatives at the university as a whole.



Children at the GBZ during an event.

FELLOWS

Newly appointed Fellows in 2008

In 2008, Jürgen Schlaeger was appointed Honorary Fellow of the Centre for British Studies. Furthermore, Roland Wenzlhuemer was made a Fellow of the Centre. This is not only to pay tribute to their exemplary effort and commitment to the Centre, but also to further and facilitate academic cooperation in the future.



G. Stedman, J. Schlaeger, R. Wenzlhuemer, and A. Herbst at Prof. Schlaeger's Farewell Dinner.

Honorary Fellows

Ben Bradshaw MP, Parliamentary Secretary and Minister for the South West and Health Minister

Prof Dr Ulrich Broich OBE

Sir Christopher Mallaby GCMG GCVO

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, MA (Oxon)

Fellows

Dr Bernd Becker

Prof Paul Carmichael

Andy Feist

Dr Hugh Mackay

Dr Gerry Mooney

Lynn Parkinson

Dr Pikay Richardson, BSc, MSc, PhD

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB

Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

STAFF

Academic Staff

British History

Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Professor for British History and Director of the Centre. 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, N.J., 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 a research unit *Gesellschaftsvergleich* at Humboldt's history department, and joined the Centre for British Studies in October 1998. Professor Eisenberg was Chairperson of ADEF (*Arbeitskreis Deutsche Englandforschung*/German Association for the Study of British History and Politics) from 2004-2008 and continues to serve ADEF's board.

She 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 1979 im Vergleich* (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); (ed.) *Parliamentary Cultures. British and German Perspectives* (2001); (ed., with Arnd Bauerkämper) *Britain as a Model of Modern Society? German Views* (2006).

In 2008 she was invited to join the International Board of the Oxford-based journal *Twentieth Century Britain*.

Heather Ellis, MPhil.

Lecturer and researcher in British history and society. Studied ancient and modern history at Balliol College, Oxford. Obtained her masters degree also from the University of Oxford in 2004. Since 2005, she has been working for a doctorate in Modern History at Balliol College, Oxford. Her doctoral dissertation explores the role of generational conflict in the process of university reform at Oxford and Cambridge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From 2005, she taught British and European history for a number of Oxford colleges until she joined the Centre in November 2008. Her postdoctoral research project will investigate the formation of scholarly networks between Britain and

Germany in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She currently teaches 'Empire and Commonwealth History', 'Current Affairs' and 'British International Relations' on the M.B.S. course. Among other tasks at the Centre, she is jointly responsible for the organisation of the student work-placement programme.

Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

Lecturer and researcher in social and economic history since April 2005. Born 1976. Studied History and Communication Science at Salzburg University, Austria, and graduated in 1999 with a Master Thesis on postcolonial conflicts in Bihar, India. Doctoral studies in history on the economic and social development of the British Crown Colony Ceylon during the late 19th century. Research stays in the UK, India, and Sri Lanka. Roland obtained his PhD at Salzburg University in April 2002. Worked as a researcher at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies in Berlin in 2003/2004. Roland, who is currently working on "Continuity and Change in the History of the Information Society", teaches 'British International Relations', 'Current Affairs' and 'Empire and Commonwealth History' on the M.B.S. programme. Among other tasks at the Centre he has taken over the multimedia project, looks after our IT equipment, and is responsible for fundraising and sponsoring. In September 2006 Roland took up an Honorary Research Fellowship at the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck College, London.

British Legal, Economic and Social Structures

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, MA (Oxon)

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics. 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, restitution, 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, and Senior Associate Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, for 2008/09. On the M.B.S. programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches "Political Institutions and Constitutional Law". He is also Chair of Admissions and Examinations at the Centre and, since October 2008, its Deputy Director.

drs. Jens Ennen, Master of Economics

Doctorandus der Economischen Wetenschappen. Lecturer and researcher in British economy. Born in March 1980 in Cologne. Studied International Economic Studies (IES) at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Graduated in 2006 with a Master thesis on an evaluation of wage subsidy regimes in the US and the UK. Erasmus studies at Audencia, Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (ESC) Nantes Atlantique, France and exchange programme at 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 January 2008 and teaches 'Presentation Techniques' and 'Academic Writing' in the winter semester and 'The UK Financial System' and 'British International Relations' in the summer semester. Research interests are Welfare State Economics, Institutional Economics and Economic History. Additionally, Jens is in charge of alumni relations, the coordination of internships and the organisation of the Berlin British Seminar.

Marc Stauch, MA (Oxon)

Lecturer and researcher in law and politics. Marc graduated from Oxford in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics in 1989, and then studied law, qualifying as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 1993. He lectured on law in England at The Nottingham Trent University and the University of Leicester. His specialist interest is in medical law: he is the co-author of a popular English student textbook on the subject and has recently completed his doctoral thesis on "Medical Negligence Law in England and Germany". On the M.B.S., Marc teaches 'Law of Torts', 'Media Law', and the 'Introduction to Political Institutions'. He is responsible for the organisation of the student work-placement programme, and for editing the *Alumni Newsletter*.

British Literature and Culture

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, MA (Oxon)

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 Constance from 1976-95, and visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, and at Fudan University, Shanghai. Professor Schlaeger was also Visiting Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was *Prorektor* at Constance 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 a member of their board. He is also a Fellow of the English Association and a member of the steering committee of the British Chamber of Commerce in Berlin-Brandenburg. He has published widely on literary theory, life-writing, Romanticism, and literary anthropology. He is co-editor of the *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* (REAL) and of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures*.

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Professor of British Culture and Literature. Studied English, French, and Film/Theatre Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Warwick. PhD (Humboldt Universität) in 2000, *Stemming the Torrent: Victorian Discourses of Emotion. Habilitation* (Humboldt Universität) in 2005. Professor of English and American Literature, Justus-Liebig Universität Gießen, 2005-2008. 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. Gesa Stedman is also interested in higher education teaching, the reform of graduate and doctoral studies, and has recently joined the Humboldt committee for a family-friendly university.

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 *Studi-*

enstiftung and the German Academic Exchange Service. Her doctoral dissertation investigates “The Concept of Cultural Agency from Modernism to Cultural Studies”. Before she joined the Centre she taught for New College, Oxford, from 2006 until 2008. Her current research interests are conceptions of cultural value and cultural agency, ethics and culture, identity formation and the *Bildungsroman*, and the novelist Angela Carter. She currently teaches courses on ‘British Identities’, ‘Performance and Performativity’ and ‘Culture and the Self’ on the M.B.S. programme. Georgia is also part of the admissions committee, is responsible for multimedia and IT, and organises the Monday Lectures.

Rita Gerlach, Diplom-Kulturwirtin

Lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. Studied International Business and Cultural Studies at the University of Passau and worked in Moscow, London, and Paris before joining the Centre in October 2001. Successfully completed her doctoral thesis on theatre funding, supply and quality in the UK and Germany in July and defended it on 24 November 2009 with a paper on “Typisch britisch, typisch deutsch: Autoren- vs. Regietheater?”. The thesis is part of the Centre’s research project “Commerce and Culture In 2008, Rita’s teaching included ‘Project Management’ and ‘National Identity’ as well as an external seminar at the Viadrina university in April 2008. Her research interests are: drama, the arts, cultural policy and management, intercultural communication, national identities. Among other tasks at the Centre she was, until March 2008 when she left the Centre, responsible for press and public relations.

Sandra Müller, Diplom Wirtschafts-Anglistin

Lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies. From 2001-2007 she studied English, Spanish, Economics and Business Studies at the Justus Liebig-Universität Gießen. In 2003 she spent a semester in Milwaukee, USA, and completed her Diploma in 2007 with her thesis on cultural exchange in contemporary British novels. Sandra joined the Centre’s team in October 2007 and is currently doing research for her doctoral thesis on “Cultural Exchange and Literature in Contemporary Britain” (working title). On the M.B.S. course she teaches ‘Academic Writing’ with Jens Ennan, ‘Project Management’ and ‘The Contemporary British Novel’. At the Centre she is responsible for Marketing and PR.

Administrative Staff

Catherine Smith, BA (Hons.)

Foreign language secretary to the director Professor Schlaeger until his departure in October 2008. She is now responsible for Professors Eisenberg (director) and Stedman. She studied Humanities with the History of Art at the Open University. She started working at the Centre in March 1996 shortly after it was opened. Her duties include managing the offices, appointments and commitments of Professors Eisenberg and Stedman, secretarial and clerical support for their teaching and research activities. In addition to this she is responsible for guests, organising conferences, seminars, meetings, events, the Monday Lectures, the Berlin British Seminar, and the day-to-day managing of the Centre. Furthermore, she is there when the students need help or assistance.

Corinna Radke, MA

Foreign language secretary and M.B.S. programme co-ordinator. Studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and in Madrid. Apart from taking part in the management of the Centre's daily affairs and helping the students with their enquiries, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre's guest lecturers and organises the teaching schedules for the M.B.S. course. In this context, she also prepares moodle courses on the university's e-learning platform for the external lecturers. She represents the Centre in the Berlin International Studies Network (BISS), which meets regularly to discuss the special needs of international Master courses in Berlin. Corinna is, furthermore, responsible for the Erasmus Placement Programme that offers financial support to students going abroad for an internship. 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 women's representative.

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 by the Centre. She helps with the organisation of conferences by taking care of catering arrangements, and by providing the necessary technical equipment. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all documents and 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 the 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 2008 the following student assistants supported us:

Cem Arsiray

Law

Karolina Golimowska

English, German Literature, Media Science

Sara Kleis

British and American Studies, History, Ethnology

Nico Köppel

Law

Katrin Levin

Media Technology

Irene Maier

Law

Anna Moersch

English, Journalism, and Communication

Claudia Müller

English, Spanish

Samuel Stein

Media Informatics



C. Müller and K. Golimowska: always there to help.

FACILITIES

The Library

The Centre's main library is situated in the *August-Boeckh-Haus*, Dorotheenstraße 65. 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, economics, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 22,700 volumes and 8,000 items of electronic material.

The Centre's library is technically and logistically linked to the main library of the HU with its computerised administration system. It is conveniently situated within easy walking distance of the Centre in Mohrenstraße, and provides all the technical and personnel requirements of a modern research library. Students and guests are able to make use of the reading and working areas, most of which are suitable for using personal notebook computers. The library's OPAC can be accessed on two terminals so that catalogue information is easily available at all times. Using her or his personal online account the reader is able to renew the loan period or to place a reservation for a book that is not yet available. She or he will also receive important information and overdue notices directly from the library. 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.



Looking for a suitable reference.

Reference Library

The Centre's reference research unit in Mohrenstraße offers reference works in all disciplines relevant to the teaching and research at the Centre for British Studies, together with reading and video facilities. The British Embassy has generously helped to set up this reference research unit.

Computer Room

The Centre is glad to be able to provide a spacious combined computer and reading room for its students in the new building. 10 personal computers with internet access and several printers help them to do their research and also to keep in touch with friends and family who, in many cases, live a long distance away.

Common Room

On the ground floor of the Mohrenstraße building the Centre provides a room for the exclusive use of the students. This Common Room is equipped with sofas and armchairs and tea-making facilities. Here the students can meet after or between classes, enjoy their breaks, relax, read the paper or simply chat away.



What's the news?

Our Website

In 2008 the Centre acquired a new web address which is easier to remember:

<http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de>

Here, people can find useful information about the Centre itself, about current events and activities and about the M.B.S. course (e.g. admission requirements).



The Centre for British Studies - on the rooftops of Berlin-Mitte.

The Centre for British Studies would like to thank

The Stiftung Luftbrückendank
The Irish Embassy in Berlin
The British Army
The Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S.
The Open University
Milesz Aponowicz, M.B.S. Graduate 2006
Oldenbourg Wissenschaftsverlag

for their generous support in 2008.