



GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM  
Centre for British Studies

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013



The British Ambassador, Simon McDonald CMG, and the GREAT Britain MINI, on the Occasion of his Lecture at Humboldt-Universität (see also last page).

H U M B O L D T - U N I V E R S I T Ä T Z U B E R L I N



## WHAT IS THE CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES?

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

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

We offer:

- An interdisciplinary international Master's degree in British Studies
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research opportunities in subjects relating to the UK
- A forum for a range of public debates, lectures and events on topical British and academic issues

Our popular Master's course lasts between 1.5 and 2 years and includes a 3- to 6-month placement in the UK.

Our course aims to provide students with a good general overview of Britain past and present while offering a range of options to study in more depth.

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



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## THE CENTRE IN 2013

The year began with a highlight in our Monday Lecture Series: a panel debate on the phone hacking scandal and the Leveson Inquiry. Dr Martin Moore from the Media Standards Trust, Dr Hugh Mackay from the Open University, Joan Smith, victim, key witness and journalist and Prof Lorna Woods, City Law School London, debated the reasons and solutions for the problem and answered questions from a packed audience. This event was followed in February by a lecture given by the British Ambassador, Simon MacDonald, who spoke about the Olympic legacy at the Senate Hall of Humboldt-Universität, and answered questions about the current position of the UK on Europe.



Further speakers in this year's programme included Dr Isabelle Hertner from the Institute for German Studies, Birmingham, Prof Rainer Emig, Leibniz Universität Hanover, Prof Nicholas Crafts, Warwick University, Prof Miles Taylor, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, and PD Roland Wenzlhuemer, Universität Basel, and Fellow of the Centre. A concert with the Coull Quartett from the University of Warwick, to celebrate the Benjamin Britten anniversary, a reading with acclaimed writer and dramatist Nell Leyshon and a reading of extracts from *Pride and Prejudice* with actor Marianne Graffam, to celebrate the Jane Austen anniversary, completed the series of public events. The keynote address in 2013 was delivered by Baroness Hale. She spoke about the protection of human rights in the UK, followed by a lively discussion with the audience.

The students' project at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* was again a success, with many visitors delighting in their exhibition on and activities around the question what we would miss if the UK were to leave the EU, under the title "Missing You Already".

In academic terms, 2013 was a productive year again. Prof Dannemann's comparative law research project was published in an impressive volume by Oxford University Press, and celebrated at an

Oxford book launch. Prof Stedman published her monograph on cultural exchange in the 17th century, and Prof Eisenberg saw the translation of her monograph on marketisation in England appear in print.

In March, the Centre hosted the 31st British-Berlin Seminar, which focused on the pros and cons of international intervention in the Horn of Africa.

Two conferences were hosted by the Centre in the autumn of 2013, both organized by Prof Stedman: 'Writing 1900: Literary Spaces and Communities', and the annual conference of the Association for the Study of British Cultures: 'Cultural Studies and its Discontents'. The latter took place at the Grimm-Zentrum of Humboldt-Universität, with which the Centre continues its close cooperation.

In the autumn, a number of changes occurred with Jessica Fischer, Johanna Zinecker and Ali El-Haj taking up their positions as researchers and lecturers. They replace Sandra van Lente, who, it seems, will join HU's Strategic Planning Office, Dr Georgia Christinidis, now at Rostock University, and Christopher Schuller, who now works for the German Institute for Human Rights. Furthermore, Jens Ennen left the Centre and now works as a Project Manager International Relations at the IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria. We wish our former staff good luck in their future careers. The Centre's current staff look forward to working with a new generation of researchers and to new and innovative PhD projects.

After the first Alumni Dinner which the Centre organized for its former students and former members of staff – a further highlight, with Dr Gerry Mooney giving the pre-dinner speech and alumnus Sam Noble providing the live music – Prof Eisenberg took over as Director of the Centre, with Prof Stedman stepping down and taking on the position of Head of Admissions and Examinations. Prof Dannemann continued as Dean of Studies and Deputy Director.

Again, we have a large class from all over the world joining us for the new academic year. We look forward to their experience, creativity and ideas and wish everyone well in 2014.

Gesa Stedman and Christiane Eisenberg



The HU main building on the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*, during which the Centre visibly occupied the Senate Hall and its balcony.

# MASTER IN BRITISH STUDIES

## Course Description



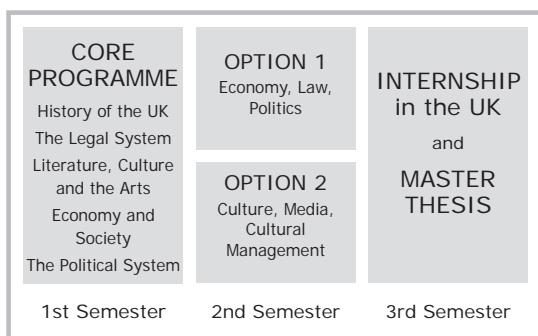
Our postgraduate Master course started in 1999 and has become a resounding success. The quality of applicants' degrees for the 30 places available every year has risen consistently. In 2008, the course was formally reaccredited by the Accreditation Agency AQAS. The accreditation committee's report was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

## Aims and Objectives

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

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

90 ECTS M.B.S.



## Admission

Applicants are required to have a very good first university degree in any subject. Furthermore, candidates need to speak very good English. The application must contain proof of proficiency in the form of an ETS TOEFL certificate (minimum score of 600 for the paper-based test, 250 for the computer-based test, or 100 for the internet-based test), or an ETS TOEIC test (minimum score of 800), or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (any grade), or a Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (grade A or B), or an IELTS test (level 7.0). A working knowledge of German is highly advisable.

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

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

## Course Structure

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



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





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

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

The course is taught in English.

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

## Core Programme

The Core Programme consists of three teaching modules which are obligatory for all students. In 2013, these modules contained the following teaching units (lectures, seminars, workshops, project work etc.):



Student drawing for the Interdisciplinary Project Seminar on WWI.

### Module 1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

- Interdisciplinary Project:  
World War I And How It Changed the Way  
We Think (9 ECTS)

## Options Programme

Students specialise by choosing one of two options:

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

#### Module 1: Accompanying Module

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

#### Module 2: Economy

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

#### Module 3: Law

- Contract Law (2 ECTS)
- Commercial Law (3 ECTS)
- Gender, Obscenity, and Censorship in Britain (3 ECTS)

#### Module 4: Politics

- Politics at the Centre: Monarchy, the Lords, the Civil Service (1 ECTS)
- Politics Beyond the Centre: Devolution, Local Government, State and Economy (2 ECTS)
- Social Movements and Popular Protest (3 ECTS)

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

#### Module 1: Accompanying Module

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



#### Module 2: High and Popular Culture

- Contemporary British Literature (2,5 ECTS)
- Britain and the Global Movement of Sport (2,5 ECTS)
- Gender, Obscenity, and Censorship in Britain (3 ECTS)

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

- Mass Media in the UK (2 ECTS)
- The Making of Sport in the Media (1,5 ECTS)
- British Cinema Today (2 ECTS)
- Contemporary Black British Culture (2,5 ECTS)

#### Module 4: Cultural Management

- Cultural Policy and Funding in the Cultural Sector (1,5 ECTS)
- British Theatre (2,5 ECTS)
- Marketing (2 ECTS)

## M.B.S. Students

### Class 2012-2014

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

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



**Class 2013-2015**

Name	Country	First Degree
1. Besson, Léa	France	English
2. Boersma, Margje	Netherlands	Arts, Culture and Media; International Business
3. Evans, Kathryn	UK	Fine Art
4. Falko, Irina	Russia	International Relations
5. Gimranova, Aysulu	Russia	Specialist Teaching Foreign Languages
6. Gonzalez, Maeva	France	Journalism and Psychology
7. Gorelova, Natalia	Russia	Area Studies: Western Europe, Interpreter/Translator English and German
8. Granderath, Cordula	Germany	English Philology and Theatre Studies
9. Grundler, Maja	Germany	English and Cultural Studies
10. Huang, Kuan	China	Business English (International Business Law)
11. Kapranova, Ekaterina	Belarus	Pedagogy, History of Pedagogy and Education
12. Krogzeme, Kitija	Latvia	English Philology
13. McArthur, Kimberly	Australia	Psychology and Economics; Bachelor of Laws
14. Meier, Wiebke Marie	Germany	Comparative Literature
15. Miranda, Renata	Brazil	Journalism
16. Mishina, Ekaterina	Russia	Translation and Translation Studies



Name	Country	First Degree
17. Miszta, Elżbieta Anna	Poland	International Relations
18. Nureeva, Luiza	Russia	English and French
19. Permiakova, Sofia	Russia	English Philology
20. Plötz, Sophie	Germany	English and American Literature and Philosophy
21. Plotnykova, Olga	Ukraine	Technical Translation English/French
22. Prella, Simon	Germany	Political Science, English and American Studies
23. Qi, Suxiao	China	English Language and Literature
24. Sadokha, Irina	Belarus	Linguistics and Translation (English and Swedish)
25. Samavati, Sina	Iran	Film and Television
26. Sharafi, Seyed Reza	Iran	English Language (Literature)
27. Srockhoff, Katharina	Germany	Geography and Regional Studies of Asia and Africa
28. Strümpel, Nadine	Germany	Cultural Studies and English Studies
29. Tsyvchyk, Yuliya	Ukraine	Philology, English
30. Walcott, Axelle	France	Applied Foreign Languages (English and Spanish)
31. Weintraub, Marat	Israel	Art History and Philology
32. Zalaldinova, Anita	Russia	English Language and Literature



## Teaching

### Examples

#### Black British Culture

The aim of the course – taught by Prof Ingrid von Rosenberg – was to investigate the rich black contribution to British culture in the fields of literature, visual arts, film, music and fashion. As a first step, the background, i.e. the history of immigration as well as the present economic and social situation of blacks in British society, was explored and theoretical key texts on the diasporic condition were discussed.

The course then concentrated on the study of cultural productions in which writers, musicians, visual artists, filmmakers and fashion wearers express their concern with questions of marginalization, belonging and identity construction in a changing British society. As assessment, students contributed papers on cultural movements or the work of individual poets, artists and filmmakers accompanied by extensive written handouts.



## Marketing in Britain

This course, taught by guest lecturer Lynn Parkinson, looks at the core principles and practices of marketing in the UK.

Examples of commercial companies and non-profit organisations are given to introduce many UK companies and brands to the students. Class discussions pick up on topical themes, such as the trust in UK banks, how UK companies develop new products, and the use of 'shock' in social promotional campaigns in the UK.

Visual and video examples of buying situations and of marketing activities, such as market segmentation, brand positioning and advertising, are used in the class, to demonstrate both current practices and cultural differences. Lessons and examples are supported by data on the UK market environment. The students undertake tasks in class to develop practical marketing skills, such as undertaking research on a sector (e.g. UK food retailing or UK fashion), evaluating competitor positioning, and recommending effective promotional activities.

The course is assessed by a short exam, which has a marketing case study analysis - this year on the Levi Roots food brand - and a series of short questions focusing on marketing decisions for organisations such as Visit Scotland and the National Trust, or companies such as Boden and Dyson.



Lynn and Erik  
at the  
*Lange Nacht der  
Wissenschaften.*

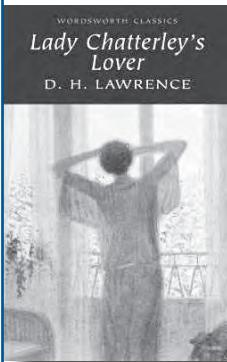


## SPOTLIGHT

### Teaching Example

#### Gender, Obscenity, and Exploitation in Britain, 1750 - Present

by Dr Erik Spindler



In the second semester of 2012-2013, Dr Erik Spindler and Christopher Schuller, the Centre's staff lecturers in History and Law respectively, joined forces to teach an interdisciplinary course. The aim of the course was to teach critical thinking in a thematic area that is rarely taught and to which few of the Centre's students have been exposed in a formal educational context, namely social attitudes towards sexualities, gender and pornography.

The course comprised of three main sections: the first was chiefly historical, covering the period c.1750 to 2013, including some literary milestones. The second part was chiefly concerned with legal approaches, including a literally 'liberal' sprinkling of feminist critiques of legal issues, and some discussion of social sciences approaches to researching pornography consumption in the age of the internet.

Given that the course was taken by all students on the MBS programme, irrespective of option chosen, deliberate choices were made to ensure that students were not confronted with material likely to make them uncomfortable (though it was established that some mainstream billboard advertising can easily be described as pornographic). Two complete texts once considered obscene were read, namely *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, arguably a key text in British studies, and 'The love that dares to speak its name', the controversial poem which led to the *Gay News* trial in 1977. Extracts from *Fanny Hill* were also read and discussed, with widespread agreement that the book's cultural significance outweighs its literary and intellectual merits.

The third part of the course consisted of assessed debates, followed by votes, the results of which can be seen in the table below. This seemed to be a suitable manner in which to treat inherently controversial subjects, and provided rather neat closure to an academic year that had begun with similar debates in the Introductory Week (described in last year's annual report).

As a teacher on the course, I found the discussion of Germaine Greer's classic *The Female Eunuch* especially



memorable: the class discussion brought out the contrast between some passages of the book which are still extremely relevant or even visionary, and the now unpalatable racism and homophobia of other sections. Students expressed opinions which ranged all the way from 'This is forty-year-old material of no relevance for our age' to 'Perhaps my home country will be ready for a book like this in thirty years' time' – reflecting the broad range of cultural backgrounds and individual opinions represented in the 2012-2014 MBS class.

Qualitative feedback received at the end of the class was among the most interesting feedback I have seen: students commented thoughtfully on content, teaching format and assessment methods. Several students noted how their attitudes and abilities changed as a result of the course: 'I feel that my mindset has been opened' and 'it [i.e. the course] makes me free to speak in general [...] about anything, just not being ashamed / confused / frightened'. The student who could not 'imagine any probability of its [i.e. the course's] usefulness for real life' will be delighted to know that the course was a one-off, which is not at all due to the irreconcilable differences between Erik and Christopher as regards the use of the Oxford comma in the course title, but to Christopher's having left the Centre's teaching staff. The Centre is extremely grateful to him, who continued to teach the course even after taking up a new position elsewhere.

Voting results of the debates held among the MBS class, 4-10 July 2013:

'This House believes that sexually explicit images are inherently harmful'	10 ayes	21 nays	motion failed
'This House believes that pornography should be illegal'	7 ayes	22 nays	motion failed
'This House believes that pornography discriminates against women'	19 ayes	10 nays	motion passed
'This House believes that religion is more important than free speech'	11 ayes	18 nays	motion failed
'This House believes that pornography should not be discussed in class'	7 ayes	22 nays	motion failed



## Further Activities

### End-of-the-Year Party

As a celebration for the students, the Project Managers planned an End-of-the-Year party with some of the profit made from the *Lange Nacht* event. Staff and students gathered at the Betahaus Café in Kreuzberg to enjoy classic drinks and delicious Mediterranean catering from Knofi Café. It was the perfect way to finish an exciting year, celebrate a successful *Lange Nacht*, and for everyone to gather before parting ways to write theses or pursue internships across Britain.



### Visit to the German Historical Museum



A new course started this autumn, called 'Interdisciplinary Project Seminar: World War One and How It Changed the Way We Think', taught jointly by G. Stedman, E. Spindler, J. Fischer and J. Zinecker. Early on in the course, the MBS class and the lecturers visited the World War I galleries at the German Historical Museum, a short walk from the Centre to Unter den Linden. The visit prompted interesting reflections and discussions, on topics ranging from the choice of objects shown in the exhibition, to the extent to which the museum presents an 'official' and distinctly German discourse. Students worked together in teams and produced posters showcasing their intellectual ability and artistic talent.

### Embassy Visit

On 13th November the students paid a visit to the British Embassy Berlin for a tour around this impressive building. They were also given the opportunity to discuss current issues with a diplomat, Mr. Lance Domm, 1st Secretary, Foreign Affairs.



## UK Higher Education Fair

On Thursday 28th November the Centre took part in the British Council's annual *Britische Hochschulmesse* held at the Humboldt-Universität's main building. Before arriving on the final leg of the tour in Berlin, 29 British universities had already presented themselves in Munich, Frankfurt am Main and Cologne. Interested students could browse around the fair and find out about the possibilities available for studying in Britain, how to apply for a place, admission procedures and the IELTS (International English Language Testing System).



## Graduation and Christmas Party

The calendar year 2013 was concluded with the official graduation of class 2011-13. Congratulations are in order to this class which has completed the course with impressive results. Due to the split structure of the course into a one-and-a-half-year and a two-year course, most graduates had already received their certificates. However, it was still good to shake hands, give a flower and wish them all the best for the future. It will be exciting to see what the future holds for them, and we look forward to hearing from them.



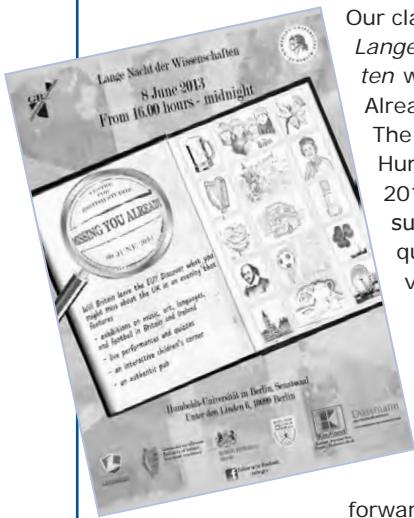
Well done, class of 2011-13, and off to new horizons ...

Right after the official part, students, graduates, staff and guests grabbed a glass of Hot Toddy and made a toast to a wonderful Christmas for everyone. People enjoyed the colourful buffet which consisted of international homemade dishes and drinks, naturally including the traditional German *Glühwein*. A relaxed and chatty afternoon flew by with sing-along Karaoke and some dancing. Along with the staff, the class of 2013-15 was looking forward to having their well-deserved break after an exciting first three months. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!



## SPOTLIGHT

### Student Project Missing you already!



Our class project for this year's *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* was entitled 'Missing You Already', a celebration of quintessentially British things.

The event was held in the prestigious Senatssaal in Humboldt-Universität's main building on 8th June 2013. After six months of planning, we presented a successful day-long event filled with live music, pub quizzes, exhibitions, a kids' corner, games, and our very own pub, 'The Queen's Bench.'

It was a challenge to create an academic, yet fun, event, but our class was up to it. In January, planning kicked off with the election of three Project Managers – Sasha, Egor, and Tathagata. Our next task was to find a theme for our event. Projects from years past had had more straightforward themes. However, after trying to incorporate as

many individual ideas as possible, and in the light of the increasing tensions between Britain and the EU, we decided to pose the question: What would you or what do you miss most about Britain? This allowed each student to present what Britain signifies to them through exhibits, music, food, drink, and design. Our event title, 'Missing You Already', came from the sign-off of one of our dear lecturers, Dr Gerry Mooney.

Over the next six months, students created business plans for their individual groups, held group meetings, and met both with the Project Managers and staff advisors, Jens Ennen and Sandra van Lente.





After months of deadlines, meetings, discussions, a few sleepless nights and dozens of Google documents, the day arrived. Posters and flyers had been distributed around the city, press releases had been sent, drinks had been purchased, cakes had been baked, great walls of exhibitions had been assembled, a real bar had been built, microphones tested, and the kids' corner arranged. We were finally ready to welcome guests.

The event was a great success. Visitors were greeted at the entrance/immigration point with a special Missing-You-Already stamp on their programmes.



Some highlights of the event included a guest appearance by the Queen herself (portrayed marvelously by student David Werner), a competitive pub quiz which almost resulted in a tie between the Centre's Professor Gerhard Dannemann and Secretary Catherine Smith, a live performance by Irish singer-songwriter Ken de Burca, arts and crafts in the kids' corner, and exhibitions with topics varying from British music and painting to politics, literature and language. We had an outstanding turnout, and our pub generated a greater profit than in any year before.

It's a challenge to plan and execute a large event with a team of thirty-two people from ten different countries. We learned the value of teamwork, the importance of communication and patience, and the challenges



and rewards of working in a culturally diverse group of people. Everyone worked together tirelessly to ensure that the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* was something that we, and the Centre for British Studies, could be proud of.

Cheers, Class of 2014. Missing you already!  
(Sasha Hulsey, Project Manager)



## Work Placements

Name	Institution
Angelova, Antoaneta	Metal Culture, Liverpool
Anikieva, Anna	National Trust, Felbrigg Hall, Norwich
Chizhikov Egor	Scottish Trades Union Congress, Glasgow
Colța, Alexandra-Maria	Tern TV, Glasgow
Döring, Caroline	Leeds International Film Festival
Duke, Anthony Roland	UK Home Office, London
Ezgin, Okhan	University of Wisconsin in Scotland, Dalkeith
Faizova, Ellina	Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, London
Fisenko, Anastasia	Metal Culture, Liverpool
Goldschmidt, Hanna	Cheltenham Festivals
Hanchar, Katsiaryna	Open University Scotland, Edinburgh
Hulsey, Sasha	Ben Bradshaw MP, London
Jacob, Jennifer	Birmingham City Council
Jović, Isidora	University of Wisconsin in Scotland, Dalkeith
Kalbitz, Thomas	Jackie Baillie MSP, Edinburgh
Kazakov, Stanislav	English Lab Exams Centre (University of Cambridge), Ekaterinenburg
Kulikova, Maria	Cheltenham Festivals
Lobig, Sophie	European Documentation Centre, Cardiff
Maletz, Christian	Birmingham City Council
Mehring, Clara	German Embassy, London, and British Embassy, Berlin
Panfilova, Kseniia	The Salt Company, London
Rogovaia, Irina	Takeover Radio, Sutton-in-Ashfield
Sabyanina, Olga	Pearson plc, London
Sarkar, Tathagata	Institute for German Studies, University of Birmingham
Shamotko, Anastasiya	Open University Scotland, Edinburgh
Shcherbakova, Anna	New Island Books, Dublin, Ireland
Shea, Christopher	Gate Theatre, London, and Donmar Warehouse Theatre, London
Werner, David	Jackie Baillie MSP, Edinburgh

## Reports

Sophie Lobig

### European Documentation Centre, Cardiff

During my internship at the Cardiff European Documentation Centre (EDC), I had the opportunity to gain work experience in a British organisation with a strong European dimension. The atmosphere was very warm and international since I was part of a team of young European interns, who worked here on a full-time or part-time basis. Although the Cardiff EDC is a library, dealing with subject enquiries was only a minor part of my work. Above all, I was part of the editorial team of the European Sources Online (ESO), which is an added value information service that focuses on the EU, the countries of Europe and on issues of concern to citizens and stakeholders in the Europe of today. In addition to that, the Cardiff EDC regularly hosts events which I helped to organise and in which I participated. During these events, I was lucky to get to know people like the Head of Office of the European Commission in Wales. I am more than grateful to the GBZ and the Cardiff EDC for this experience which made me a better professional and a better person. As a fortunate side-effect, this internship provided me with valuable incentives for my Master thesis.



Sophie in the EDC library.

### Alexandra-Maria Colță Tern TV, Glasgow

On my first day, I stepped into the Glasgow office of the production company Tern TV full of curiosity and excitement. I was able to find out about the whole creative process behind the small screen. Throughout my time here I have learned new things everyday. First, the relatively small team, travelling between offices in Scotland, Belfast and meetings in London, introduced me really quickly to the daily workflow and habits – here I learned how many cups of tea you can actually drink per day. Secondly, I had the chance to take part in a wide range of activities, ranging from brainstorming new programmes, research, writing proposals, assistance throughout the actual production and on-set filming. Moreover, I was involved in developing different types of TV formats, experiencing how a game show is created and tested, factual entertainment about pets, adventure series or documentaries for several different channels in the UK. This internship undoubtedly broadened my knowledge of TV production in the UK, which definitely suited my former interest in the field that I developed during the MBS classes. In the future I will drink more tea, continue to build a career in the broadcasting field and prepare for my master thesis, which will involve the arts and, of course, television.



Alex next to a real BAFTA award at Tern TV.

## M.B.S. Theses

Name	Thesis
Bergman, Eric	Nation-ness, the Body and the Artistic Diaspora in Henry Miller's <i>Black Spring</i> and Lawrence Durrell's <i>The Black Book</i>
Bilgisel, Dilara	The Cycle of Resistance in China Miéville's Bas-Lag Trilogy
Conrad, Paulin	Britain in the Mediterranean: Europeanisation and the Question of National Identity in Malta and Cyprus
Drechsel, Julia	Do Sexes Sell? The Use of Gender Stereotypes in British Advertising: A Three-Way Comparison of the Fin de Siècle, the Inter-War Years and the Dawn of the Sexual Revolution
Fafinski, Mateusz	Scottish Printing and Book Production in the European Context in the 16th Century
Gaebler, Jeanne Marie	The Classical Music Scene in the UK and Germany: Conventions and Commercialisation – Can Classical Music Survive?
Grishkova, Sofya	The Hillsborough Case: A Contemporary Approach to Tort Liability of the Police to be Reviewed?
Guo, Mengzhi	Thatcher's Legacy: A New Consensus in Welfare?
Hall, Jayne	Britain's Responsibility to Protect
Harmuszkiewicz, Dominika	Post-2004 Polish Labour Migration to the UK: Developments in the British Construction Sector Between 2004 and 2011
Hartlapp, Peter	The Work of the BBC World Service Trust/BBC Media Action in Cambodia and its Impact on Youth, Gender and Health (working title)



Name	Thesis
Ignatova, Natalia	Introduction of the UK Bribery Act 2010. Its Influence on the Development of Business Relationships Between the UK and Russia
Knežević, Mirta	Feeding the Genders: Outlining of Postfeminist Masculinities and Femininities in the UK's Popular Culture
Oberthür, Julia	The Changing Concept of Privacy in the UK in the Light of CCTV and Online Data Surveillance: A Panoptic State?
Pichugina, Yulia	Transformation of the Doctrine of Liberal Intervention in Labour Party Foreign Policy (1997-2012)
Plewa, Edyta	Ethical Consumerism in Times of a Recession: The Fair Trade and Organic Movements in the UK since the Financial Crisis
Strecker, Till	The Development of the Vegetarian Movement in the UK and Germany as Reflected in Cookery Books
Tamakhina, Olga	Scotland and Independence: The European Dimension
Veligurova, Lina	Copyright and the Creative Industries in the UK: Between Incentive and Reward
Waage, Inga Thorunn	Literary Emotions
Wegenstein, Josefine	Sex Sells: The Insatiable Appetite for Pornographic Literature in Britain: A Comparison of Two Best-Selling Novels of the 20th and 21st Century
Zaytsev, Artem	"The Few Cubic Centimetres Inside Your Skull": Remaining Human in George Orwell's <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> and Yevgeny Zamyatin's <i>We</i>



## Alumni

### What happened to ...

#### Judith Robinson (née Lüdenbach)

Class 2006-2008



I joined The Times Cheltenham Literature Festival as Festival Assistant after graduating and was lucky enough to eventually be promoted to Programme Manager. In 2011, I got the opportunity to work for the British Council Literature team in London on a fixed-term contract, mainly to manage the cultural programme of Chinese authors at the London Book Fair 2012. It was a truly exciting and inspiring time and I had the extraordinary opportunity to go to Beijing and immerse myself in the Chinese literature scene. Following this, I took some time off to have a baby. Since May 2013, I have been working as Literature Producer for Bath Festivals, programming and producing the Telegraph Bath Children's Literature Festival (autumn) and the Independent Bath Literature Festival (spring) with two amazing Artistic Directors, David Almond and Viv Groskop. As we are planning to take on M.B.S. students as part of their internship programme I can look forward to a closer cooperation with the Centre in the near future.

#### Paul Stankus

Class 2005-2007

After graduating from the GBZ in 2007, I set off on a journey of self-discovery to India, travelling there by land from Germany through Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. With that out of my system, I returned to the United States where I settled in Brooklyn, New York and began to look for a job. A Craigslist job posting led me to a temporary position with a global financial institution and after a few years there I was able to transition to a permanent position with another bank. I am currently a Regulatory Compliance Manager at HSBC, working in Midtown Manhattan. I still attend gigs when I have the chance, though nowhere near as regularly as when I was living in Berlin. Last summer I returned to Berlin to visit my old stomping grounds and the new facilities of the GBZ, which I was very impressed with. I would be happy to meet up with any GBZ alumni who find themselves in New York City.



## TEACHING AT OTHER FACULTIES AND UNIVERSITIES

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

Prof Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter terms 2012/13 and 2013/14. 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.

### ***Die globale Sportbewegung 1800-2000: Voraussetzungen – Triebkräfte – Entwicklungsmechanismen***

This lecture series by Prof Eisenberg, 'The Global Sport Movement 1800-2000: Prerequisites – Driving Forces – Development Mechanisms', was attended by both students of history and sport. She gave an overview of the history of modern sport from the early modern period to the present. In particular she carved out the driving forces and mechanisms of the global dissemination of sport (migration, transport and communication systems) in the 20th century, as well as the impact on sport of international political conflicts and the two World Wars. Discussing path dependencies as well as the – sometimes unintended – consequences of political decision-making by the governing bodies of sport, she developed the argument that sport was, in many respects, a beneficiary of the manifold crises of the 'long' 20th century.

### ***Konkurrenzerfahrungen in der Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte***

(Research Seminar: The Experience of Competition as a Theme of Economic and Social History)

Competition is the operative mechanism of markets and the modern economy in general. However, this type of social action can also be observed in other types of social relations, such as in political elections, on the marriage market, in award ceremonies, in architecture and the arts, in sport and media shows. The seminar was designed for advanced students of modern history. They discussed approaches to analysing competitive social action with a view to using them for their own historical research. They were offered guidance in their endeavours to specify their research questions, to find literature and sources and to write a research proposal.

## SPOTLIGHT

### Alumni Dinner

**28th September 2013, Senatssaal HU Berlin**

The Centre for British Studies looks back on 13 M.B.S. classes that have either already graduated or are just about to finish their degree. We thought that this is as good a reason as any to meet up and celebrate the success of the Master in British Studies programme and to say thank you to our former students without whom this would not have been possible.

The Centre wants to keep in touch with its alumni. This is a two-fold endeavour. On the one hand we like to keep track of what our former students are up to – be it professionally or in their private lives. When they leave the Centre they are usually off to their first proper job and later maybe start a family. It is nice to witness this and to perhaps get into contact if something comes up that might be of mutual interest.

On the other hand we regularly send out information about the activities at the Centre and also on career prospects or interesting events in Berlin or elsewhere. By maintaining and updating our alumni network, we are able to bring students of all years together in order to communicate and find out about possible co-operations regarding internships, common interests or job offers.

With the intention of supporting this networking idea we invited all our alumni, who graduated from 2001 until 2012, to come together for an alumni dinner. We were able to book the prestigious Senatssaal at Humboldt-Universität's main building for this purpose – all our former students will fondly remember their stressful but instructive and exciting student project for the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*, which they held either in or near this venue. So, it was nice to be back at the scene of the action.

The evening started off with a glass of Pimm's, after which Prof Gesa Stedman gave a welcome address reminiscing about years of clever young international





people roaming the floors of the Centre in order to study all things British. While doing so the M.B.S. students may have lost their fear of the British economy, discovered a fondness for British law, stopped wondering how a parliamentary monarchy can exist without a codified constitution, were confronted with the diversity of British identities and maybe put down the title of a contemporary postcolonial novel next to *Pride and Prejudice* on their list of favourite books ...

The next highlight of the evening was, of course, the pre-dinner speech given by all-time favourite lecturer

Dr Gerry Mooney. He gave a rather touching talk on his time with the GBZ and with the M.B.S. students. With a view to possible Scottish independence, Gerry wondered what the Centre would call itself if there is no "Britain" anymore. He ended with a thought-provoking proposal, namely: the 'Welsh, Irish, Scottish, English Centre for Research and Comparative Knowledge', in short WISE-CRACK. If you are interested in the outcome of this proposal – watch this space! ...



After a delicious dinner and some wonderful musical entertainment by former M.B.S. student Sam Noble and his guitar, people spent the evening chatting about past times, whilst bringing us and each other up-to-date on their personal careers. Unfortunately, not all students who wanted to come could make it in the end, and also some of the Centre's staff were sadly missed. But it was good to see everyone, renew old contacts and start off possible cooperations.



All in all, it was a successful evening and we hope to repeat the experience – the next opportunity being the Centre's 20th anniversary in 2015. So please keep in touch! The Centre is online at [www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de) and on Facebook as "Gbz Berlin" – please let us know of any updates, especially if your email-address changes ... Only if we have the right data are we able to make the most of our good intentions.

## RESEARCH

### Conferences and Workshops

#### 31st British-Berlin Seminar



Dr Tim Othieno

This annual seminar, which took place from 4-6 March, aims to bring together members of the British Forces and German *Bundeswehr*, but also relevant speakers from, for example, diplomatic missions and NGOs to discuss ongoing and current issues. Entitled “International Intervention in the Horn of Africa: A help or a hindrance?” the seminar offered views from various delegates including Brigadegeneral Wiermann, GOC *Kommando Territoriale Aufgaben der Bundeswehr*; Dr Tim Othieno, senior researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria, South Africa; Maj Gen Henderson, GOC HQ British Forces Germany; Dr Thomas Zitelmann, *Institut für Ethnologie*, Freie Universität Berlin, Simon McDonald KCMG, British Ambassador to Germany, and Maximilian Mueller, *Brandenburgisches Institut für Gesellschaft und Sicherheit*. In particular, the seminar looked at the German, the EU and CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU) perspectives, at the African side and at the logistical challenges the Horn of Africa poses for the international community.

#### ADEF Junior Workshop

The 5th Junior Workshop of the German Association for the Study of British History and Politics (ADEF), which took place from 26-27 September, was hosted by Prof Eisenberg and organized by Tanja Skambraks (Universität Mannheim) and Benjamin Schröder (Humboldt-Universität). Nine PhD students from all over Germany and Austria presented their projects on British, comparative, and transnational history. Contributions covered a wide range of topics both chronologically and methodologically: from questions of identity in the 11th and 12th centuries to cultures of consumption during the economic crises of the 1970s and 1980s, from the role of the diplomatic corps in the formulation of British foreign policy to an oral history of autodidacticism in Northern Irish prisons. The discussions were just as animated as in past years.

#### KOSMOS-Workshop

#### Writing 1900: Literary Spaces and Communities

The autumn meeting of the research network ‘Writing 1900’ focused on literary communities during its KOSMOS-funded workshop. The programme consisted of papers on the role of Dieppe, Florence, Rome, the search for cosmopolis, Ibsen and his English

followers, on two Danish artists, on Michael Field, on modernist poets, and it included a guided tour of Christopher Isherwood's 1930s Berlin. In addition, plans were discussed for a future meeting on travel in Europe, the spring meeting in Oxford was announced and the network's website final version was presented.

## Cultural Studies and its Discontents

### Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of British Cultures

Slightly more than a decade ago, the German Association for the Study of British Cultures was founded in Berlin. In the autumn of 2013, the members of the association met again in Berlin, at the Grimm-Zentrum, to discuss how far they had come and which aims have yet to be attained. A critical view of Cultural Studies (in Germany and Europe) was the focus of the conference, with contributions and panel discussions and lively, at times even controversial, debates. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University, and a Cultural-Studies practitioner with first-hand experience of one of the founding fathers of British Cultural Studies, Stuart Hall. Reminding us of the need to remain political and focused on the current situation, if one wants to follow in the Birmingham tradition, Hugh Mackay kicked off the conference, to be followed by panels and contributions both by younger and more established scholars. A post-graduate forum gave room to PhD candidates to present their work, and representatives of neighbouring disciplines also had the chance to introduce their take on Cultural Studies. Although in some respects participants agreed to disagree, namely on the need to take an explicit political stance, and from which theories and approaches inspiration and theoretical and methodological innovation might best be drawn, they all agreed that the conference had helped them to once again focus on their own position and reflect on a meta-level what exactly Cultural Studies meant for them. Some of the debates and papers will be published in the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures*, edited by Prof Bernd Lenz (Passau) and Prof Gesa Stedman, to appear in 2014.



Dr Hugh Mackay



## SPOTLIGHT

### Writing 1900

Writing 1900 is an international and cross-disciplinary network of scholars who are interested in studying the literary culture of this period in ways that overcome traditional national, linguistic and generic borders. The aim of the group is to share expertise and, through dialogue, to keep searching for innovative and challenging approaches to literary and cultural history and critical practice.

The project is led by Professor Gesa Stedman, Centre for British Studies, and Dr Stefano Evangelista, Trinity College, University of Oxford.

We chose 1900 as a deliberately arbitrary date to represent the age of transition comprising the periods that, within literary studies, are generally referred to as fin de siècle and early modernism. The period around 1900 is an era when an increase in cross-national literary traffic coincides with redefinitions of concepts of nationhood and political and economic power, both within Europe and on a global scale.

Writing 1900 was set up to investigate the shifting forms of literary culture in this age of transition from a cross-disciplinary and transnational perspective. We are interested in debating what happens to specific authors, works and literary currents when they migrate across national borders. Our working language is English but we work against the idea of a 'national' literature by putting renewed pressure on productive angles for the cross-border study of literature, including internationalism, modernism, exile, pacifism, cosmopolitanism, transatlantic and post-colonial studies.





Can literature exist at the crossroads of different national cultures? How are the meaning and value of literature affected by patterns of cultural migration and exchange? What roles do institutions (universities, museums, academies, publishers, congresses) play in the process of literary cultural exchange? How do we account for the work of figures (critics, translators, travellers) who

straddle multiple literatures and languages, and who have often been excluded from nationally-defined histories? These questions are particularly timely in our own age of globalised culture, when traditional models of comparative literary studies no longer offer scholars adequate cognitive and methodological tools and a new wave of critical approaches must be worked out.

Workshops and conferences in Berlin, Oxford and Siggen (Schleswig-Holstein) have focused on methodological questions, individual case studies, and most recently, on objects and on literary spaces and communities. The website for the project will be going online shortly and a special issue of the *Forum for Modern Language Studies* (OUP) is planned for 2014.

The workshops and conferences have received funding from the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank*, the John Fell Fund, KOSMOS (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), and the *Alfred-Toepfer-Stiftung*.



## Medieval Reading Group Berlin

Two medievalists, Dr Spindler of the Centre and Dr Perett of the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin, jointly launched this series of reading group meetings in spring 2013. Both convenors teach on English-language degree programmes that range far beyond the Middle Ages, and both delight in having this space for talking about matters more closely related to their research. The reading group is open to anyone with an interest in the Middle Ages, including but not limited to 'foreign' researchers based in Berlin, whether or not they are currently affiliated with a higher education institution. Meetings take place at the Centre, approximately once a month. Further information and dates of future meetings are available on '[medievalreading.wordpress.com](http://medievalreading.wordpress.com)'.

## Research Colloquium

The history working unit of the Centre organised Study Days for a Research Colloquium on British History. Apart from discussion concerning current projects, work organisation and writing techniques, the meeting offered and encouraged general discussion.

### 17/18 January 2013

Firas Amr (Berlin)

*Die Betrachtung des Gegners in der deutsch-britischen Auseinandersetzung. Möglichkeiten und Grenzen der Feindmanipulation im Zweiten Weltkrieg*

Emmanuelle Chaze (Bayreuth)

Huguenot Correspondence in England in the 17th and 18th Centuries

Benjamin Schröder (Berlin)

*Wahlkampf und Kulturen des Konflikts in Deutschland und Großbritannien, 1918-35*

Christoph Wagner (Leicester)

'Huns vs. Inselaffen': The Anglo-German Football Rivalry in the English and German Press, 1954-1996

Daphné Bolz (Rouen/Berlin)

The 1948 London Olympic Games and the German Press

### 4/5 July 2013

Michaela Maria Müller (Berlin)

Relations between Writers and Publishers, 1965-2000

Karena Kalmbach (Florenz)

Tschernobyl in Britain. A forgotten Event?

Christiane Eisenberg (Berlin)

Market Competition – a Research Topic for Historians?

## Current Research Projects

### Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

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

This project, which began in 2009 and which was co-sponsored by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, was concluded in March 2013 with the publication of Gerhard Dannemann and Stefan Vogenauer (eds.), *The Common European Sales Law in Context: Interactions with English and German Law*, by Oxford University Press.

### Existing EC Private Law

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

### Plagiarism

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

### Further Activities

Attended a conference on "A Common European Sales Law (CESL) for e-commerce" held at the European Law Academy, Trier, 12-13 September. \* Presented a paper on "Three uncertainties in the German law of unjustified enrichment" at a workshop on the comparative law of unjust enrichment, held at the Gault estate, McGill University, Montreal, 30 September. \* Co-chaired a conference on "Recent developments in the law of limited liability companies, Institute of Notary Law, Humboldt-Universität, 18 October. \* Presented a paper on "Interactions between the Common European Sales Law and Domestic Laws", held at Charles University, Prague, 29-30 November. \* Held a lecture on "*Plagiatsdokumentation und Umgang mit Plagiaten*" at the Institute of Geological Sciences, Freie Universität Berlin.



## Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg



In 2013 Professor Eisenberg allowed herself broad reading on the effects of transferring market structures into popular culture (and vice versa) and wrote an article on the rise of the competitive mind, with a particular focus on eighteenth-century England. She will continue to explore this field of research during her sabbatical in 2014.

## Prof Dr Gesa Stedman



Prof Stedman has published her book *Cultural Exchange in Seventeenth-Century France and England* (Ashgate, 2013). Together with Dr Stefano Evangelista, Trinity College, Oxford, she has set up a research network, entitled "Writing 1900", which focuses on cross-cultural exchanges at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. Historians and literary scholars work together and meet regularly for workshop conferences. Gesa Stedman has also edited a volume on the current state of cultural studies in the German-speaking countries, entitled "Cultural Studies: State of the Art", *JSBC* (2013). Together with Sandra Müller, she has edited a special issue of *Hard Times* on the literary field in the UK (vol. 94, 2013). She spent her research leave as a Visiting Fellow at Trinity College, Oxford, continuing her work on English writers and mediators in Berlin in the early 20th century.

## Dr Erik Spindler

Dr Spindler, former Humboldt Research Fellow, now lecturer in History, continued to work on his book on Dutch-speaking immigrants in late medieval England. In so doing, he attended a very stimulating conference on 'Gender in the European Town' in Odense, Denmark – and realised on that occasion both that he has been studying gender history for well over a decade (without ever applying that label), and that he never previously attended a conference on that specific subject. Further papers given at the Institute of Historical Research, London, and Université de Paris-8 have provided inspiration for various sections of the book.

Together with Dr Perett of the European College of Liberal Arts, Berlin, Dr Spindler also started a series of meetings of the 'Medieval Reading Group Berlin'. This reading group provides English-speaking, locally based medievalists with an opportunity to connect with each other, read recent publications and discuss their work, and, of course, drink sherry.

## Ali El-Haj

Ali El-Haj is currently at the initial stages of his research. He is interested in exploring the methods of the migration of constitutional ideas – using a multi-dimensional approach – and the normative principles which underpin these migrations. This will involve studying questions concerning, on a philosophical level, the legitimacy and, on a practical level, feasibility of the migration enterprise. He feels that his previous research and field work on constitutional reform in the Arab world, which has seen a significant movement of constitutional ideas, will inform his research.

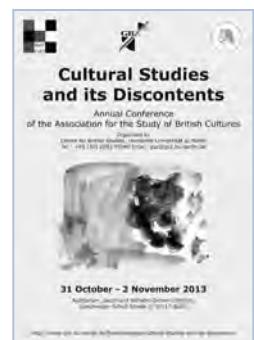
Ali is the assistant editor of the book “Constitutional Change after the Arab Spring: Hopes, Issues and Challenges” (editors: Professor Rainer Grote and Dr. Tilmann Röder) (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). His research interests include public international law as well as constitutional law.



Source: <http://www.Keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk>

## Jessica Fischer

For her research, Jessica Fischer, who joined the Centre as lecturer and researcher in British Literature and Culture in 2013, went to London for one week in September. In the British Library, the National Gallery, the Tate Britain, the Dulwich Picture Gallery and at the University of London she collected material for her PhD thesis on contemporary British Asian novels, for the article on “British Art Now,” and for her contribution “Youth and Art” to the M.B.S. module ‘World War One: How It Changed the Way We Think.’ Currently she is involved in projects of the International Strategy Office at Humboldt-Universität. In October and November Jessica attended the KOSMOS Workshop ‘Writing 1900’ and the conference ‘Cultural Studies and its Discontents’ (Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of British Cultures) in Berlin.



## Christopher Schuller

Current research includes a study for the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on international co-operation between national human rights institutions in the field of business and human rights, as well as development of a template for national human rights institutions to test their states’ civil and criminal law for compatibility with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. A comprehensive assessment of Germany’s own implementation of these principles will be published at the end of 2014. Christopher left the Centre in May to work as a Legal Adviser at the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR).

## Sandra van Lente (née Müller)

Sandra van Lente handed in her PhD thesis on "Cultural Exchange in Selected Contemporary British Novels". In this project, she combined cultural exchange theory with narratological tools and a context-oriented outlook. She analysed representations of cultural exchange processes as well as the effect of such representations. Sandra paid particular attention to the histories of production and reception of the selected novels, including the marketing strategies of the respective publishers.



Sarah Hall, reading at the British Council conference.

In addition, Sandra attended a conference on "Writing in Public" organised by the British Council (Berlin, 24-26 Jan). Its aim was to explore how "large movements of history and social change emerge in the intimate, closely observed rhythms of private lives", as Philip Hensher put it. Authors were Joe Dunthorne, Esther Freud, Sarah Hall, Alan Hollinghurst, John Lanchester and Andrew O'Hagan. Sandra attended the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of British Cultures (31 Oct-2 Nov), organized by the GBZ. She continued to work for the German-English magazine *Hard Times*. Together with Gesa Stedman she edited the issue on "The Literary Field in the UK" (2/2013) and wrote an article on e-books and e-reading devices for this number. Sandra also composed the layout for this issue as well as for the one on "Childhood in Britain" (1/2013). Furthermore, Sandra has written a chapter on book marketing in the UK for a forthcoming student text book.

## Johanna Zinecker

Johanna is currently starting to prepare her PhD Research Project on visualizations and performance of mental health in contemporary artistic and curatorial practice in the UK. She is interested in critically analyzing cultural productions (e.g. exhibitions, festivals) and artistic representations (e.g. works of art, films) that shape and negotiate discourses on public mental health culture in Great Britain. Furthermore, in her first semester at the Centre, Johanna attended the KOSMOS Workshop 'Writing 1900' and the conference 'Cultural Studies and its Discontents' as well as contributed a review article on interdisciplinary artistic practice to *Hard Times* (vol. 94, 2013).



## Visiting Researchers

### Prof Patricia Springborg

Patricia Springborg is emerita professor of Political Science from the University of Sydney and, more recently, from the School of Economics, Free University of Bolzano.

She is a visiting researcher at the Centre and used the Centre's data bases to complete the article "Hobbes, Donne, and the Virginia Company: Terra Nullius and 'the Bulimia of Dominium'", submitted to *History of Political Thought*. She also revised an article on globalization and the financial crisis and completed "Sovereignty, Organized Hypocrisy, the Paradox of Post-9/11 International Relations", a chapter in the collected volume, *Polity Out of Crisis*, Sakari Hänninen, Kaarlo Tuori, and Massimo Fichera, eds, Arnham: Ashgate (forthcoming). In May 2013 *Intellectual History: 5 Questions* was published in which Patricia has a chapter among 25 living intellectual historians world-wide (see page 41 for list of publications).

And on 11 July, she delivered a paper on "Hobbes and the Civil Law Tradition" to a Conference on 'Hobbes and Law' at the Centre for Global Constitutionalism, University of St Andrews, to celebrate its 600th anniversary.

### Dr Daphné Bolz

Sciences du Sport et Education Physique, Université de Rouen

Last winter Daphné Bolz worked on the situation of Germany in regard to the London Olympic Games of 1948, for which she used printed sources and archive funds held in Cologne, London and Lausanne. Since early 2013 she has been focussing on her Marie Curie research project entitled 'The cultural transfer and the diffusion of physical education and sport in Europe, 1918-1945: the Anglo-German case'.

So far she has been studying more specifically the parallel process of mass educational and health reform through physical education derived from Germany. She presented the first results at the Universities of Strasbourg, Manchester and Barcelona (Ramon LLull). She is currently co-editing two special issues of academic journals on Olympic history that result from the French conference for sports history she co-organised in Rouen (France) in October 2012.



## External Doctoral Students and “*Habilitanden/Habilitanden*”

### Culture and Literature Department

Rita Gerlach-March

is writing her *Habilitation* on Arthur Ransome and his *Swallows and Amazons*.

Sandra van Lente

has handed in her thesis on “Cultural Exchange in Selected Contemporary British Novels”.



The novels Sandra analyses in her PhD thesis.

### History Department

Firas Amr

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

Sam Noble

is writing a PhD thesis on “The Vilification of Radicalism and the Revolutionary Debate in 18th Century Political Prints” (working title).

Stephan Schwanke

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

## Law Department

Jens Brückerhoff

is writing a PhD thesis on the law of maritime salvage in comparative law and in the conflict of laws.

Veronika Efremova

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

Robert Ficht

is writing a PhD thesis on "Statutory control of unfair contract terms in business contracts".

Inessa Ghukeyan

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

Arne Gutsche

is writing a PhD thesis on "Conceptions of contract as a question of national identity".

Richard Marter

is writing a PhD thesis on "The review of standard contract terms in collective proceedings in Germany, France and England".

Maik Martin

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

Zoé Jacquemin

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



Prof Dannemann and his PhD students meet regularly to discuss their work in progress.

## Publications

**DANNEMANN, G.**, with S. Vogenauer, eds. *The Common European Sales Law in Context: Interactions with English and German Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. 789+lxvii pp.

This volume includes the following individual contributions:

- , with S. Vogenauer. "The European Contract Law Initiative and the 'CFR in Context' Project". 1-20.
- . "Choice of CESL and Conflict of Laws". 21-81.
- . "The CESL as Optional Sales Law: Interactions with English and German Law". 708-731.
- . "Comparisons with Book VII of the Draft Common Frame of Reference". *The Restatement Third: Restitution and Unjust Enrichment. Critical and Comparative Essays*. Charles Mitchell and William Swadling, eds. Oxford/Portland: Hart Publishing, 2013. 285-301.
- . "Schavanzentrisches Weltbild". *Der Tagesspiegel*/3 March 2013. [<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/wissen/die-ex-ministerin-und-ihre-unterstuetzer-schavanzentrisches-weltbild/7863836.html>].
- . "Hans Stoll (1926-2012)". *Juristen-Zeitung* (2013): 184-185.
- . Continued as General Editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum* and of the *German Law Archive*.

**EISENBERG, Ch.**, *The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800*. Transl. Deborah Cohen. New York/Oxford: Berghahn Publishers, 2013.

---. "Die Olympischen Spiele der Neuzeit. Wiederaufnahme der antiken Tradition?" *Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Unterricht* 64 (2013): 80-89.

---. "Культура общения во второй империи и в Веймарской Республике на примере спорта." *Альманах германской истории* 1 (2013) [ "Sociability in the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. The Example of Sport." *The Almanac of German History* 1 (2013)]: 325-338.

**STEDMAN, G.** *Cultural Exchange in Seventeenth-Century France and England*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2013.

---, ed. "Cultural Studies: State of the Art". *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* 20.1 (2013).

---. "Editorial. Cultural Studies. State of the Art." *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* 20.1 (2013): 3-9.

---. "Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*." *Hard Times* 93 (2013): 45-48.

---. "News from the Literary Field in the UK." *Hard Times* 93 (2013): 90-92.

**SPINDLER, E.** "Between Sea and City: Portable Communities in Late Medieval London and Bruges." *London and Beyond: Essays in Honour of Derek Keene*. Matthew Davies and James A. Galloway, eds. London: Institute of Historical Research, 2012. 181-199.

## Visiting Researchers

**GRAHAM-DIXON, F.** *The Allied Occupation of Germany. The Refugee Crisis, Denazification and the Path to Reconstruction*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2013. (Francis Graham-Dixon spent two months at the Centre as a *Luftbrückendank* Fellow in 2009, doing research on this project.)

**SPRINGBORG, P.** "The Bubble and the Pump: Globalization, Complexity, Contingency, and the Financial Crisis." *Oesterreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie* (2013): 179-98.

---. "Patricia Springborg." *Intellectual History: 5 Questions*. Mikkel Thorup, ed. London: Automatic Press, 2013. 161-72.



## SPOTLIGHT

### Current Publications

#### Cultural Exchange in Seventeenth-Century France and England

by Gesa Stedman, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2013.



Gesa Stedman's ambitious new study is a comprehensive account of cross-channel cultural exchanges between 17th-century France and England, and includes discussion of a wide range of sources and topics. Literary texts, garden design, fashion, music, dance, food, the book market, and the theatre as well as key historical figures feature in the book. Importantly, Stedman concentrates on the connection between actual, material transfer and its symbolic representation in both visual and textual sources, investigating material exchange processes in order to shed light on the connection between actual and symbolic exchange. Individual chapters discuss exchanges instigated by mediators such as Henrietta Maria and Charles II, and textual and visual representations of cultural exchange with France in poetry, restoration comedies, fashion discourse, and in literary devices and characters. Well-written and accessible, the book provides needed insight into the field of cultural exchange, and will be of interest to both literary scholars and cultural historians.

#### The Common European Sales Law in Context: Interactions with English and German Law

by Gerhard Dannemann and Stefan Vogenauer, eds, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

European Contract Law unification projects have recently advanced from the Draft Common Frame of Reference (2009) to a European Commission proposal for an optional Common European Sales Law (2011) which is to facilitate cross-border marketing. This book investigates for the first time how CESL and DCFR rules would interact with various aspects of domestic law, represented by English and German law. Nineteen chapters, co-authored by British and German scholars, examine such interface issues for e.g. pre-contractual relationships, notions of contract, formation, interpretation, and remedies, extending to non-discrimination, third parties, transfers or rights, aspects of property law, and collective



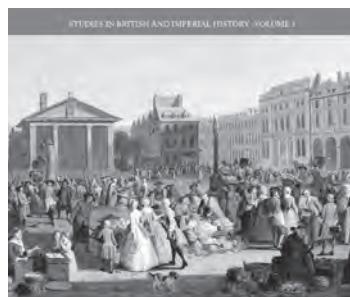
proceedings. They go beyond a critical analysis of CESL and DCFR rules by demonstrating where and how CESL rules would interact with neighbouring areas of English and German law before English and German courts, how domestic traditions might influence the application, which aspects might motivate sellers and buyers to choose or reject CESL, and which might serve as model for national legislators. The findings are summarized in the final two chapters.

This project was funded jointly by Britain's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the German Research Council (DFG), its leadership consisted of Prof Dannemann and Prof Stefan Vogenauer, University of Oxford.

## **The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800**

by Christiane Eisenberg, transl. Deborah Cohen, New York/Oxford: Berghahn Publishers, 2013.

This book is an extended translation of Prof. Eisenberg's 2009 book *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft*. This study reconstructs the centuries-long process of commercialization that gave birth to the modern market society. It shows how certain types of markets (e.g. those for real estate, labour, capital, and culture) came into being, and how the social relations mediated by markets were formed. The book deals with the creation of institutions like the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange, and Lloyds of London, as well as the way the English dealt with the uncertainty and the risks involved in market transactions. Christiane Eisenberg shows that the creation of a market society and modern capitalism in England occurred under circumstances that were utterly different from those on the European continent. In addition, she demonstrates that as a process, the commercialization of business, society, and culture in England did not lead directly to an industrial society, as has previously been suggested, but rather to a service economy.



*The RISE of MARKET SOCIETY in ENGLAND  
1066–1800*

*Christiane  
EISENBERG*

## Library

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

The library's main areas of collection are those of the relevant disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 27,500 volumes and 8,000 items of electronic material.

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

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

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

whilst a small reference library is available in Mohrenstraße 60 to be used on the spot by the Centre's students and staff.



## EVENTS

### Keynote Lecture

#### The Protection of Human Rights in the UK

Baroness Hale of Richmond, DBE, QC, PC, FBA

British Legal Academic, Barrister, Judge, and Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the UK, London

14 November

The UK lawyers, who helped draft the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in 1950, thought that it represented what was already the UK law. Yet early decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg revealed that it was not always so. The Human Rights Act 1998 made a fundamental change to the protection of human rights in the UK. Lady Hale looked at how that protection has developed over the 13 years that the Act has been in force. Lady Hale specifically examined and evaluated five functions of the Human Rights Act: (1) it incorporates rights enshrined in the ECHR; (2) courts are required to "take into account" decisions of the Strasbourg Court; (3) legislation must be read and given effect in a way which is compatible with the Convention rights; (4) courts may make a declaration that legislation is incompatible with Convention rights; and (5) ministers must make a statement that a proposed law is compatible with such rights.

The lecture also shed light on the relationship between the Strasbourg Court and the UK's highest court. With courts playing a key role in the Human Rights Act regime, Lady Hale explained that the new legislation required courts to engage in a relatively novel balancing exercise between different, competing rights or rights and interests. A number of relevant court decisions were referred to, illustrating the difficulties involved in striking such a balance. Her Ladyship concluded the lecture by addressing issues that would arise should the Human Rights Act be repealed. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session involving members of the audience.

Lady Hale has been the first female member of the highest UK court since 2004 – first as a 'Law Lord' in the House of Lords, and then as a Justice of the newly-created Supreme Court. Lady Hale was appointed Deputy President of the Supreme Court in June 2013. She previously taught law at Manchester University and also practised as a barrister at the Manchester Bar, where she specialised in family and social welfare law. In 1984, Lady Hale became the first female Law Commissioner – the work of her team resulted in the Children Act 1989, the Family Law Act 1996, and the Mental Capacity Act 2005.



Lady Hale answering questions from the audience.



Lady Hale's lecture was published in *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum 1* (2013) at ouclf.iuscomp.org.

## Monday Lectures

### The UK Phone Hacking Scandal

#### Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr Martin Moore, Media Standards Trust

Panellists: Dr Hugh Mackay, The OU in Wales; Joan Smith, Journalist; Prof Lorna Woods, The City Law School, London

14 January



On this very timely issue of phone hacking and press regulation, the Centre for British Studies invited: Joan Smith, journalist, victim and witness, Dr Hugh Mackay, sociologist at the Open University in Wales, and Prof Dr Lorna Woods, professor of law at The City Law School, London. The panel was chaired by Dr Martin Moore, director of the Media Standards Trust in the UK, an "independent registered charity that fosters high standards in news on behalf of the public".

The panellists discussed the first findings of the Leveson Inquiry and drew attention to cases of phone hacking and the police's failure to act and share their information with the victims. Joan Smith – as a victim, but also as journalist – said she was shocked by the lack of many people's "moral compass". The panel agreed that regulation was necessary in order to prevent such behaviour from reoccurring. However, they also found it difficult to say what exactly this should look like. A change of the work culture was called for as well as the enforcement of already existing laws.



### Is it always up to the Leadership? European Policy-Making in the Labour Party, SPD and PS

Dr Isabelle Hertner

Deputy Director of the Institute for German Studies, Birmingham,  
Lecturer in German and European Politics and Society

21 January

Drawing on over 30 interviews with key actors, Dr Hertner explored the challenges of European policy-making in following

three major centre-left parties during their time in government and opposition, and in circumstances when some EU issues have become politically highly charged: the British Labour Party, the French Parti Socialiste (PS) and the German Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD). She examined the common roles played by four party actors – namely party conferences, the parliamentary party, groupings in the European Parliament, and the parties executive committees and international departments – in the making of European policy, and explored their abilities to constrain and influence their respective leaderships.



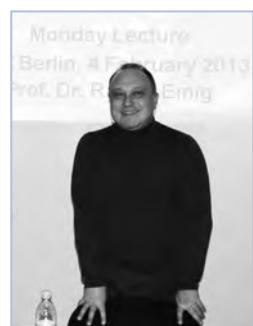
## **The Hermeneutics of Empire: Imperialism as an Interpretation Strategy**

**Prof Dr Rainer Emig**

English Department, Leibniz Universität Hannover

4 February

In his lecture on the “Hermeneutics of Empire”, Prof Rainer Emig analysed literary representations as well as films that used references to the Roman Empire in order to make sense of their contemporary situation. Rosemary Sutcliff’s novel *The Eagle of the Ninth* (1954) served as the main example. Written at a time when Britain was marked by austerity and a loss of former colonies, Rainer Emig claimed that the novel allowed for a look at the British Empire through the lens of the Roman Empire – at a time when the British Empire was crumbling. The novel was recently adapted by Hollywood – “The Eagle” (2011) with Channing Tatum – and allows us to see the decline of the “American Empire” through the lens of the British and Roman Empires.



## **The “Legacy Games”: The Economic and Social Impact of London 2012**

**Simon McDonald, CMG**

British Ambassador to Germany

6 February

This crowded event at the prestigious Senatssaal in the HU main building was dedicated to the legacy of the Olympic Games, which the Ambassador described as their “very own ‘Sommermärchen’”. In his “self-consciously proud account” he explained what legacies were sought to be established in the areas of sports, society, economy and the East London area. Some have already been realized, such as the improvements to transport and infrastructure and the creation of new jobs in the Olympic area that will remain



beyond the conclusion of the actual games. Some of the venues were specifically designed to be only temporary, following lessons learnt from previous Olympic Games in different countries. Six out of eight permanent venues such as the Aquatic Centre and the "Copper Box" have already found new tenants. The Ambassador also proudly highlighted the success of the 2012 Paralympics, "the most visited Paralympics ever", and the positive impact they had on attitudes to disability in Britain. After the talk the Ambassador kindly agreed to take questions from the floor. They ranged from football to a possible break-up of the UK through Scottish independence.



## **Britain in the European Economy - a Long-Run Perspective**

**Prof Nicholas Crafts**

Department of Economics, University of Warwick

**Concert:** Coull Quartet

Quartet-in-Residence, University of Warwick

10 April

For the first time in the Centre's history, a Monday Lecture was combined with a concert in the packed Heilig-Geist-Kapelle in Berlin-Mitte.

Nicholas Crafts, professor of Economics and Economic History at the University of Warwick, explained the most important economic developments which have connected the UK and the European Economy since the 1970s. In his lecture, he shed light on the differences and interdependencies of economic and political decisions. He also investigated different possible scenarios that might result if the UK were to leave the EU or if England were to join the Euro. Nicholas Crafts concluded that the benefits and disadvantages of the UK in the EU were balanced and that he saw the costs of leaving the EU higher than those of staying.

The musical part of the evening was very welcomed after such a thought-provoking lecture. The Coull Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Warwick, played two pieces beautifully by Benjamin Britten – whose 100th birthday is celebrated in 2013 – and one by Tchaikovsky.

Both events were organized in cooperation with the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Humboldt-Universität.



The Coull Quartet

## Reading with Nell Leyshon

13 May

Nell Leyshon, acclaimed writer of theatre and radio plays as well as two novels, read from her works *The Colour of Milk* (2012), *Bedlam* (2010) and *Comfort Me With Apples* (2005). She explained the differences between writing, on the one hand, for radio and theatre and, on the other hand, novels, illustrated by vivid examples. Nell Leyshon also talked about her life as a contemporary British author and her work with Vita Nova, an arts organisation supporting those recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. While answering questions from the audience, she touched upon the cuts in cultural funding, e-books and the situation of publishing in the UK in general. The students were particularly grateful for her hands-on explanations and guidelines to creative writing. Furthermore, they were surprised to learn that determination and discipline rank even higher than creativity if one wants to become a writer in today's literary field.



Students discussing with Nell Leyshon (second from left).



## Kaiser-i-Hind: Victoria, Albert and the Remaking of British India

Prof Miles Taylor, PhD (Cantab) FRHS

Institute of Historical Research, University of London

17 June

At the beginning of this lecture Professor Taylor considered the year 1876, when Queen Victoria became Empress of India. However, in his interpretation he took into consideration that the influence of Victoria on India dates back to the beginning of her reign in 1837. Inspired by Albert's Aryanism and his support for a post-1848 Germany led by a chamber of princes, Queen Victoria imposed herself on the new British Raj created in 1858. Although she never visited India, popular reactions to her reign became interwoven into Indian movements for social reform and national independence.



Miles Taylor is Director of the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London. He studied history at Queen Mary College, London, Harvard, and Cambridge. His new book *Empress: Queen Victoria and India* will be published by Yale UP in 2014.

## **The Bestseller of all Bestsellers: 200 Years of *Pride and Prejudice* – A Reading with Marianne Graffam and Gesa Stedman**

26 June



Marianne Graffam and Jane Austen, the latter stitched by Gudrun Leitner.

Two hundred years after the book's first publication, the Centre organised a celebratory reading of *Pride and Prejudice* – which is still as popular as ever. Together with Gesa Stedman, Marianne Graffam read from Jane Austen's most famous novel. Afterwards, students and visitors celebrated the event appropriately with Pimm's and Cream Tea. Marianne Graffam is a multi-talented actor based in Berlin, who specialises in British accents. She holds a B.A. in English and Drama

and Theatre Studies from the University of London and an M.A. in Advanced Theatre Practice from the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She is known for *Black Death*, *The Ghost* and BBC Productions, the Station Voice of Nickelodeon Germany. The artist Gudrun Leitner kindly provided us with a stitched picture of Jane Austen, the original of which was drawn by Cassandra Austen. Gudrun's work can be viewed on [gutggoko.com](http://gutggoko.com).



## **The Music of Benjamin Britten**

Susanne Stähr  
Musicologist, Berlin

11 November

On 22 November 2013, the music world celebrated the 100th birthday of Benjamin Britten, one of the greatest British composers of his time, who developed a unique and distinctive musical language between tradition and modernity. Susanne Stähr – formerly a press officer and dramaturge at the Hamburg State Opera and currently working for the Swiss Lucerne Festival – delivered a lively lecture on Britten's eventful life, from child prodigy to internationally acclaimed opera composer.

This event was organised together with the *Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft*.

## The Great War of World War I: Historiographical Perspectives on the War 1914-1918

PD Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Universität Heidelberg

28 November

Historian George F. Kennan identified the war of 1914-1918 as "the great seminal catastrophe of the 20th century" and claimed that through it the further course of history – the War of 1939-1945 and the Cold War – had practically been predetermined. This notion has served well to highlight the many existing continuities and lines of development in this era. At the same time, however, it narrows our understanding of the event. This talk highlighted the historiographical implications of this dilemma. Roland Wenzlhuemer is Heisenberg Fellow at the Department of History at Heidelberg University. From April 2013 to March 2014 he is Visiting Professor at the Institute for European Global Studies at the University of Basel.



Former Lecturer at the Centre and Fellow, PD Dr Wenzlhuemer with Prof Stedman.



The Centre would like to thank the *Stiftung Luftbrückendank* that generously supported its lecture series.

## Visitors at the Centre

### Visitors from the University Library

In January the new director of the Humboldt University Library, Dr Andreas Degkwitz, and the head of the branch library Foreign Languages, Dr Anja Otto, visited the Centre. They informed the staff about the new developments in the university library, praised the successful teamwork with the Centre's librarian, Evelyn Thalheim, and discussed future cooperation.



### Advisory Board

The Advisory Board held their annual meeting on 12 April. As usual they were informed about the Centre's activities: finances, structure and staff issues, events and lectures, and, of course, the latest about the M.B.S. course and its students. The discussion focused on staff and student satisfaction and the curriculum reform. In the end, Sir Paul Lever assured the staff of the board's support and congratulated them on a "thriving Centre of excellency".



## Visitors from the British Embassy



From left: Simon Gallagher, Christiane Eisenberg, Nick Pickard.

On 12th November the Centre welcomed two special visitors from the British Embassy Berlin. Mr Simon Gallagher, Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor EU & Economic and Mr Nick Pickard, Consul-General and Counsellor Political, paid a visit to the Centre, spending time talking to staff and students about the nature of their work and their role as diplomats in Germany. The students kept them busy with questions about current challenges that the UK faces in the international arena; the ways it maintains its leading position in the world; the promotion of British culture (festivals, special guests, the Mini Tour in Germany) and the role the British Embassy plays in this.

## Public Relations

The Centre for British Studies attracted the public through its Monday Lectures, the Keynote Lecture, a reading, discussions, a concert and other events, which are announced through emails, posters, the university's and the Centre's website as well as in social networks. The M.B.S. gained particular attention through the student project at Berlin's *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* and through the fair *Britische Hochschulmesse* on 28 November.

Prof Stedman was interviewed for *Deutsche Welle TV* and was asked to comment on English eccentricity from a cultural studies perspective. On 8 April Prof Eisenberg gave two interviews on the occasion of the death of Margaret Thatcher: One was broadcast by the SRF (*Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen*), the other was published in *USA Today*.

Prof Dannemann's contributions to the debate about plagiarism appeared in various media channels throughout the year: on the radio, on TV or in newspapers. The former German Secretary of State for Education Annette Schavan continued to be of major interest, but interestingly enough, even one of the professors who helped identify plagiarism committed by politicians in the past was now accused of ignoring the guidelines of good academic practice. Prof Dannemann was consulted as an expert on these cases, for example by *Bild*, *Deutschlandfunk*, *dapd*, *hr Info*, *Junge Welt*, *rbb Kulturradio*, *n-tv*, *3sat*, *Spiegel TV*, *The Times*, *Tagespiegel* and *ZDF Morgenmagazin*. He was interviewed by *n-tv*, *3sat* and *detector.fm* on Cameron's declaration on Great Britain and the EU.

All interviews, articles and press releases can be found at the Centre's webpage: [www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de)

## FELLOWS

### Honorary Fellows

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

The Centre's new  
 Fellows (from the top):  
 Valentine Cunningham,  
 Stefano Evangelista,  
 Steven Truxal.

### Fellows

Dr Bernd Becker  
 Prof Paul Carmichael  
 Andy Feist  
 Dr Hugh Mackay  
 Dr Gerry Mooney  
 Lynn Parkinson  
 Dr Pikay Richardson  
 Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB  
 PD Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer

Newly appointed:

#### **Prof Valentine Cunningham**

Prof Cunningham is Senior Research Fellow in English at Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford. He has been a friend and supporter of the Centre for many years and visits regularly to teach the M.B.S. students and to take part in the Centre's research activities.



#### **Dr Stefano Evangelista**

Dr Evangelista is a Fellow and Tutor in English at Trinity College, University of Oxford. His research focuses on cosmopolitanism and cultural exchange in nineteenth-century British literature. His collaboration with the Centre dates back to 2003. Since then he has been back regularly to teach on the M.B.S. programme and to take part in conferences and other events. Together with Prof Stedman, he leads the international network 'Writing 1900'.



#### **Dr Steven Truxal**

Dr Truxal is Lecturer and Programme Director at City University London. Steven's research this year focuses on air passenger rights and abuse of dominance in airport slots, including case studies from Germany. He supervises M.B.S. student theses and looks forward to teaching on the M.B.S. in 2014.



## STAFF

### Academic Staff

#### Director

#### Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Professor for British History. She studied history and social sciences at Bielefeld University, where she obtained a Dr. phil. in 1986. After working as a research associate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld in 1986-87 and holding a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, in 1987-88, she became assistant professor at the History Faculty of the University of Hamburg where she completed her *Habilitation* in 1996. She deputised for the Social History Chair at the University of Bielefeld, worked in the research unit *Gesellschaftsvergleich* at Humboldt's history department, and joined the Centre for British Studies in October 1998. She has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich* (1986); 'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939 (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009), translated as *The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800* (2013). Prof Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. She is vice-chairperson of the Arbeitskreis Deutsche England-Forschung (German Association for the Study of British History and Politics), a member of the Advisory Board of the German Historical Institute, London, and a liaison professor (*Vertrauensdozentin*) of the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*. In October 2013 she took over the position of the Director of the Centre for British Studies.

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

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

lish and German legal systems, contract, tort, unjust enrichment, private international law, and also on standards of good academic practice. Founder and general editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum* and the *German Law Archive*, founding member of the Acquis Group (European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law), chair of the Group's Redaction Committee and Terminology Group, Research Fellow of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford. On the M.B.S., he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches 'Constitutional Law and Political System'.

### **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. Received scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*. After a period as a visiting graduate student at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, she completed her PhD on the Victorian discourses on emotion at Humboldt-Universität in 2000. Research periods in Paris, Oxford, and London, supported by the *Deutsches Historisches Institut*, led to her '*Habilitation*' on 17th-century Anglo-French cultural exchange at Humboldt-Universität in 2005. Gesa Stedman was Professor of English and American Literature, at Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen from 2005-2008 and was appointed Professor of British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in 2008. She was a co-editor of the *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* and chief co-editor of the Anglo-German magazine *Hard Times*. Research interests include the history of emotions, cultural exchange studies, in particular between England and France, British film and film historiography, as well as gender history, the literary field in the UK, France, and Germany. During the summer, Gesa Stedman was Visiting Fellow at Trinity College, Oxford. She is a member of the jury for the Humboldt Prize and acts as head of the Committee for a Family-Friendly University at Humboldt-Universität. In addition, she acts as an unofficial advisor to the Internationalisation Strategy Unit of Humboldt-Universität. Currently, she is head of exams and admissions at the Centre.

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

Senior Professor of British Literature and Culture. Studied History, Philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford. He was professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Konstanz from 1976-95, and

visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, at Fudan University, Shanghai and also Visiting Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was dean and pro-vice-chancellor at Konstanz and Chairman of the German Association of University Teachers of English, board member of the European Society of English Studies, and chair of the Shakespeare-Prize *Kuratorium* of the *Alfred Toepfer Stiftung* in Hamburg. He is now chairperson of its board. He is also a Fellow of the English Association. In 2009 he was made an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He has published widely on literary theory, life-writing, Romanticism, and literary anthropology. He was co-editor of the *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* (REAL) until 2010.

### **Dr Erik Spindler**

Humboldt Research Fellow in medieval history and lecturer in history. Dr Spindler transitioned this year from a research-focused fellowship to being a 'properly' employed lecturer at the Centre for British Studies. The transition has been a gradual and smooth one, which involved teaching a memorable course on Gender and obscenity (together with Christopher Schuller) and, from October, working with several colleagues to set up a major new interdisciplinary module on the First World War. One of his more entertaining tasks is to be in charge of students' internships (under Jens Ennen's stewardship): as part of that role, Dr Spindler, Corinna Radke and Jens Ennen all travelled to Scotland to meet existing and prospective internship providers – a most interesting and rewarding week.

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

Lecturer and researcher in English law. Read law at University College London (UCL) and public international law at the University of Cambridge. Awarded in 2011 the John Frederic Whitehouse Essay Prize for the best LL.B. dissertation at the UCL Faculty of Laws. Worked from 2011 to 2012 as a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law and, in 2013, at the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and



the Rule of Law. During his time at the Max Planck, he worked on various constitutional law-related projects concerning the Arab world, with a specific focus on Tunisia and Libya. He teaches 'Constitutional Law and Political System' (with Prof Dannemann) during the winter term and 'Tort Law' during the summer term of the M.B.S. programme.

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

Doctorandus der Economische Wetenschappen. Lecturer and researcher in British economy. Studied International Economic Studies (IES) at the School of Business and Economics of Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Graduated in 2006 with a Master thesis on an evaluation of wage subsidy regimes in the US and in the UK. Erasmus studies at Audencia, Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (ESC) Nantes Atlantique, France and exchange programme at the Université de Liège, Belgium. Completed a Minor in European Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University. Worked as a freelance trainer in Business and (Busi-



With Patty Watters and Gerry Mooney in front of Dalkeith House.

George Dalgliesh, Principal Curator at the National Museums of Scotland and a most interesting day at the Scottish Parliament, including a guided tour through the impressive building, a delicious lunch at the member's restaurant with Jackie Baillie MSP and a talk to Sarah Boyack MSP who is interested in taking on an intern in her office. Furthermore, Corinna, Erik and Jens spent a sunny day in Glasgow where they met with people from the Poverty Alliance, visited John Slaven at the Scottish Trade Union Congress and were able to secure a new placement with the Glasgow Film Festival. The whole trip was "fathered" by Dr Gerry Mooney who not only introduced us to the interesting taste of a self-made haggis but also to Patty Watters at Dalkeith House who is in charge of the University of Wisconsin in Scotland programme and who took on a first M.B.S. student this year. Last but not least it was very nice to finally visit the Open University's premises – a very impressive Georgian building in Edinburgh's new town.

### **Staff Mobility Programme: Visit to Scotland**

In September, Jens Ennen, Corinna Radke and Dr Erik Spindler went to Scotland as part of an Erasmus staff mobility programme organised by the International Office of HU. The aim was to meet long-term internship providers and to open up new contacts. Among the many highlights of their stay were a fascinating tour through the exhibition "Mary, Queen of Scots" by



Lunch with Jackie Baillie (centre).

ness) English/French in Cologne. At the Centre he taught 'Presentation Techniques', 'Project Management' as well as 'Financial Markets and International Trade'. Furthermore, he worked as an internship coordinator for the Centre's Master course. He left the Centre in January 2014 and started working as a Project Manager International Relations at the IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria.

### **Jessica Fischer, MA**

Lecturer and researcher in Literary and Cultural Studies. Studied English, History of Art, European Cultural Studies, Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Freiburg, the Freie Universität Berlin and University College London. Before she joined the Centre, she worked as a freelance lecturer for various universities. She is member of the advisory board of *Hard Times* magazine, of the German Association for the Study of British Cultures and the Association for the Study of the New Literatures in English. This year she taught 'Contemporary British Literature in Context: Novels and Poems at the Turn of the 21st Century,' 'Contemporary Developments in the UK: Postcolonial Studies and Literature Today,' 'Academic Writing' (with Dr Erik Spindler) and 'World War One: How It Changed the Way We Think' (with Prof Gesa Stedman, Dr Erik Spindler and Johanna Zinecker) as well as 'Post-ethnic Fiction?' on the M.B.S. programme, and 'Academic Writing' at New York University Berlin.

### **Sandra van Lente, Diplom Wirtschaftsanglistin**



Sandra with Ben Bradshaw's (front left) election team.

Sandra Müller married and changed her name to Sandra van Lente. She had been a lecturer and researcher in literary and cultural studies since 2007 and left the Centre for British Studies at the end of May. In addition to her research and teaching, Sandra was responsible for marketing and PR at the Centre. She was also a member of the study commission and the *Institutsrat*. She completed professional training on teaching skills, media competence, conflict management, content management systems and layout skills. On the M.B.S. course she taught courses like 'The Literary Field in the UK', 'The Contemporary British Novel', 'Project Management', 'Academic Writing', 'Presentation Techniques' and a workshop on 'Public Relations and Marketing'. Sandra studied English, Spanish, Economics and Business Studies at Justus Liebig University Gießen and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She spent some time in Oxford and London on research leave. Sandra wrote her PhD thesis on "Cultural Exchange in Contemporary British-Asian Novels", a thesis in which she combines cultural

exchange theory, narratological approaches and an analysis of the literary field in the UK. This year, Sandra handed in her PhD thesis. In April and May, she spent a couple of weeks with Ben Bradshaw, MP and his team in London and Exeter in order to support the Labour Party in their election campaign in Exeter. Inspired by this experience, she completed a period of voluntary work for the German elections to the Bundestag. She continues to be engaged in local politics in Berlin-Pankow in an honorary capacity.

### **Christopher Schuller, MA (Oxon), Esq.**

Read Law with German Law at Pembroke College, Oxford, and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, from 2004-2008. Called to the Bar in New York in 2012. Coordinator of Foreign Legal Education, University of Osnabrück, 2008-2010. Consultant Lawyer, Business and Human Rights, European Center for Constitutional



The Centre's staff (from left):

Front row: Sylvena Zöllner, Catherine Smith, Gesa Stedman, Christiane Eisenberg.

Middle row: Corinna Radke, Gerhard Dannemann, Erik Spindler, Johanna Zinecker.

Top row: Jens Ennen, Ali El-Haj, Evelyn Thalheim, Jessica Fischer, Jürgen Schlaeger.

and Human Rights (ECCHR), 2012-2013. Lecturer and Researcher in English Law, Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität of Berlin, 2010-2013. Currently Legal Adviser in the Department of International Human Rights Policy at the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR), Germany's national human rights institution.

### **Johanna Zinecker, MA**

Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature. Johanna has a professional background as cultural producer, project manager and curator in the field of art and culture, in which she has been active since 2005, both in Germany and the UK. After studying English and American Studies and German Literature at Humboldt-Universität and the University of Manchester, she turned her attention fully to cultural producing and arts programming. Through this she gained professional expertise in an interdisciplinary context while working as a project coordinator and assistant curator at the department of Visual Arts at *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* in Berlin from 2008 to 2012. Here she helped to realize a number of large-scale international exhibitions and publication projects on various contemporary topics. In her first semester (WS 2013/14) at the Centre Johanna teaches 'Project Management', as well as co-teaches an interdisciplinary project seminar on WWI, exploring in her contributions mental health issues in connection to gender and literary representations thereof.

## **Visiting Researchers**

### **Dr Daphné Bolz**

Associate professor (maître de conférences) in sports sciences at the University of Rouen since September 2009; visited the GBZ as a DAAD-grantee in November and December 2012; currently on secondment at the GBZ as a Marie Curie IEF Fellow (February 2013-January 2015). Previously Research Fellow at De Montfort University, Leicester (UK). She wrote her doctorate (Strasbourg/FU Berlin, 2005) on the political and aesthetic aspects of sports architecture in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, which was published as *Les Arènes totalitaires. Fascisme, nazisme et propagande sportive* (CNRS, 2008). Since 2006, she has also been working on interwar British sports history and she currently focuses on international influences in the area of sport and physical education in Europe. Daphné is General Editor of the journal *European Studies in Sports History* and has been the General Secretary of the European Committee for Sports History (CESH) since 2009.

## Administrative Staff

### Corinna Radke, MA

Corinna studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität and in Madrid (sponsored by Erasmus Studies), as well as passing a two-year further education course on public administration. Apart from taking part in the management of the Centre's daily affairs and helping students with their problems and enquiries, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre's guest lecturers and organises the teaching schedule for the M.B.S. In this context, she prepares courses on the HU's e-learning platform 'Moodle'. Currently, she supports the study committee in the process of adapting the Master course to the new HU regulations. She represents the Centre in the Berlin International Studies Network (BISS). Corinna co-ordinates the Erasmus Placement Programme that offers financial support to students doing an internship abroad. Other activities include the organisation of conferences and other events as well as preparing the manuscripts of conference proceedings and supervising their publication. Finally, she edits the Centre's annual report. Corinna is the Centre's equal opportunities officer.

### Catherine Smith, BA (Hons.)

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

### Sylvena Zöllner

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk, and has been working at the Centre since July 1996. She is responsible for administering the Centre's finances, for the supply of office material, technical equipment, and everything else needed. She helps with the organisation of conferences by taking care of catering arrangements and the nec-

essary technical equipment. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all records for our Master degree, calculating the final Master mark, and preparing the final Master certificates.

## Librarian

### Evelyn Thalheim

Graduated from the *Fachschule für wissenschaftliches Bibliotheks- und Informationswesen Berlin*. Worked as a qualified librarian in various scientific institutions, among them the university library of Humboldt-Universität, *Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR* and *AG Strukturelle Grammatik* at the Max Planck Institute. She joined the Centre in 1996 and has since 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 2013 the following student assistants supported us:

**Laura Benjamin**

Law

**Thore Podlich**

Gender Studies

**Jens Brückerhoff**

Law

**Alexandra Prohm**

Law

**Patrick Daus**

History

**Christina Rücker**

Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

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© Cover photo, together with the Ambassador, from left: Prof Dr Michael Kämper-van den Boogaart (HU Vice President for Academic and International Affairs), Prof Dr Gesa Stedman, Anke Grueneberg (German National Hockey Team) and Thomas Härtel (Vice President *Deutscher Behindertensportverband e.V.*)

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