

RESEARCH

Jessica Fischer is interested in the “the most potent of all ideological forms – that of narrative” (Eagleton, Terry. “Ideology, Fiction, Narrative.” *Social Text*. 2. 1979. 62-80). Her research project *AGENCY LTD. The Entrepreneurial Self in Narratives of Transformation: Selected British Debuts at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century* examines contemporary literatures of Monica Ali, Nirpal Singh Dhaliwal, Gautam Malkani and Sarfraz Manzoor, and specifically, the forms of agency they construct for British Asian identities in the way they narrate the lives of the protagonists. In these texts the marginalised main characters all find a new position in their fictional British societies through a transformation of their identity. However, their agency is restricted to conformist practices within neoliberal structures. For the protagonists, becoming a *homo economicus* might result in autonomy but never in a form of agency which criticises power. Jessica Fischer’s project attempts to broaden the focus beyond identity politics to processes of subject formation in contemporary Britain and analyses how the novels *Brick Lane* (2002), *Tourism* (2006), *Londonstani* (2006) und *Greetings from Bury Park* (2007) add to the hegemony of neoliberal discourses and to the normalisation of its effects.

Her research involves cultural studies, postcolonial studies, postclassical narratology, social philosophy, anthropology, narrative psychology and life writing.

In the course of her teaching career, Jessica Fischer has conducted research on such topics as Modernist art, novels and poems since 1975, crime fiction, the *Bildungsroman*, migration, or society and well-being. Important themes in her freelance projects have included colonial and postcolonial cultural histories, theories of globalisation, urban studies, and late 19th- to early 21st-century developments in art and literature. She has supervised and examined master’s theses on a variety of interdisciplinary topics.

MEMBERSHIP

Arbeitskreis Cultural Studies (since 2008)

German Association for the Study of British Cultures (since 2009)

Advisory Board *Hard Times Magazine* (since 2010)

Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (since 2011)

Reporters sans frontières (since 2013)

Berlin Graduate School of British Studies (since 2014)

Berlin-Britain Research Network (since 2014)

Institutsrat of the Centre for British Studies (2015-2018)

SELECTED RECENT ACTIVITIES

Teaching, tutoring and supervision of international students including the evaluation of their papers and theses, Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ongoing)

Research for seminars and contribution to the reform of the interdisciplinary programme *M.A. British Studies*, Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ongoing)

Organisational support and PR activities for all public lectures and events at the Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ongoing)

Participation in the activities of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ongoing)

Participation in the meetings of the advisory board of *Hard Times Magazine* (ongoing)

Participation in the *Berlin-Britain Research Network* (ongoing)

Introduction to the public lecture "Cultural Threads: Transnational Textiles Today" by Prof Jessica Hemmings at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (January 2015)

Organisational support of and participation in *Form in Tension*, British Council Literature Seminar in Berlin (January 2015)

Participation in the working group *Equality Policy* at the Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (since May 2015)

Participation in the workshop *Comparison in Scientific Research* (Dr. Wenzlhuemer) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (May 2015)

Contribution to the panel *Research at the Centre for British Studies* during the Centre's 20th anniversary event at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (May 2015)

Guest lecture "Postcolonial Studies: A Visual and Literary Exploration" at Universität Lüneburg (June 2015)

Participation in *This Progress* by Tino Sehgal for the international performing arts festival *Foreign Affairs* at Haus der Berliner Festspiele (June and July 2015)

Participation in *This Situation* by Tino Sehgal at Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin (June and July 2015)

Participation in the symposium *Philologie und Gesellschaft* in Hannover (September 2015)

Participation in the research network *Life Writing* (organised by Prof. Dr. Schlaeger) in Siggen (September 2015)

Participation in the workshop *Research Methods in the Social Sciences* (Prof Cochrane and Dr Neal) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (September 2015)

Seminar talk "Crime Fiction in an International Perspective" with literary critic Thekla Dannenberg at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (December 2015)

Presentation of current research in the workshop *Showcasing your Research for Success* (Dr Truxal) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (December 2015)

Participation in the workshop *Project Management* (Dr. Russo) of the Humboldt Graduate School at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (December 2015)

Organisational support of and participation in *Brit Crime – A New Golden Age of Crime Writing*, British Council Literature Seminar in Berlin (January 2016)

Participation in the workshop of the Arbeitskreis British Cultural Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (January 2016)

Public talk "The Autobiographical Crime Novel: a Contradiction in Terms?" with author Jessica Mann at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (February 2016)

Social media training with social and digital media consultant Ulrike Pehlgrimm (March 2016)

Participation in the Berlin-Britain Research Network conference *Austerity and Agency* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (April 2016)

Participation in the preparations for the evaluation of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies by the Humboldt Graduate School (June 2016)

Paper "Reframing the Research Project: 'Narratives of Neoliberalism. Agency after 9/11 in Selected British Debut Novels'" for the *British Studies Research Colloquium* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (July 2016)

Participation in the internal strategy meeting of the Centre for British Studies in Chorin (September 2016)

Participation in *Collective Composition Project: an Exploration into Performance* with artist and choreographer Patricia Woltmann at Kunstquartier Bethanien in Berlin (October-December 2016)

Participation in *The Times of Culture and the Cultures of Time. British Temporalities*, conference of the German Association for the Study of British Cultures at Universität Bielefeld (November 2016)

Participation in the training *Aktuelles zum Urheberrecht (Moodle, Handapparate, Reader)* by Stefanie Berger, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (December 2016)

Seminar talk "Amnesia as a Thematic and Narrative Device in Crime Novels" with blogger and editor Sonja Pyykkö at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (December 2016)

Organisation of the interdisciplinary project GOOD SEEDS with international academics and artists (2015-2017)

Seminar talk "Crime Fiction in an International Perspective" with literary critic Thekla Dannenberg at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (January 2017)

Participation in the workshop of the Arbeitskreis British Cultural Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (January 2017)

Participation in *Diverse Voices, New Directions*, British Council Literature Seminar in Berlin (January 2017)

Participation in the *Literary Studies Colloquium* of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (February 2017)

Seminar contribution about "Neoliberal Narratives" to the interdisciplinary project seminar *Self, Society and Agency* with Dr Marius Guderjan and Felicia Kompio at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (May 2017)

Collaboration with artist and choreographer Patricia Woltmann and participation in the performance *Bombyx mori* at Refo Moabit in Berlin (May and July 2017)

Paper "Investigating the Entrepreneurial Self" for the *MA/PhD Colloquium in Literary and Cultural Studies* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (July 2017)

Paper "Representations of Migrants and Migration in the 20th and 21st Centuries" for the conference *Audit UK: Social, Political, and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (September 2017)

Co-leading the workshop "Agency" with Dr. Marius Guderjan and Felicia Kompio at the conference *Audit UK: Social, Political, and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (September 2017)

Participation in the internal strategy meeting of the Centre for British Studies in Potsdam (October 2017)

Organisational support of and participation in the *Interdisciplinary Reading Group* of the Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (2013-2018)

Presentation of current research at the Centre for British Studies of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (January 2018)

Participation in *Writing Gender: Sexuality, Feminism and Masculinity*, British Council Literature Seminar in Berlin (January 2018)

Participation in the PhD training by Dr. Olaf Hars, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (February 2018)

Participation in the anti-discrimination workshop for the Centre for British Studies by Constanze Schwärzer-Dutta from the Centre for Social Inclusion Migration and Participation, Berlin (February 2018)

Conceptualisation and co-organisation of the lecture series *Imagined Economies* with Prof. John Clarke, PD Dr. Melissa Kennedy, Dr. Olivier Butzbach, Prof. Imogen Tyler, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (summer semester 2018)

Introduction to the lecture series *Imagined Economies* at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (April 2018)

Introduction to the public lecture "Imaginary Economies. Neoliberal Economy and the Arts" by PD Dr. Melissa Kennedy at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (May 2018)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Fischer, Jessica. Text for *Paint Ain't a Lie*, by Andrea Lauermannowa. 8-10 July 2008, GEDOK, Lübeck.

---. "The White Tiger." *Hard Times Magazine* 85 (2009): 56-58.

---. "Food and Drink." *Hard Times Magazine* 86 (2009): 2-5.

---. "Portraits." *Éditions*. Patrick Rimond, 2010. Web. 23.11.2016.

---. "British Art Now." *Hard Times Magazine* 90 (2011): 42-43.

---. *Forum Transregionale Studien. Bericht*. Berlin: GBZ, 03 May 2012.

---. "British Art Now." *Hard Times Magazine* 91 (2012): 58-60.

---. "British Art Now." *Hard Times Magazine* 92 (2012): 61-63.

---. "British Art Now." *Hard Times Magazine* 94 (2014): 50-52.

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

Fischer, Jessica. "Interview with Jürgen Enkemann." Special Issue. Ed. Sebastian Berg, Georgia Christinidis and Jessica Fischer. *Hard Times Magazine* 100 (2017): 3-11.

---. "Writing Gender: Sexuality, Feminism and Masculinity. Comment on the British Council Literature Seminar in Berlin in January 2018." *Literary Field Kaleidoscope*. 02.02.2018. <http://literaryfield.org/british-council-literature-seminar-in-berlin-2018-writing-gender-sexuality-feminism-and-masculinity-25-27-january/> [22.04.2018]

SELECTED EDITORIAL PROJECTS / TRANSLATIONS

Schulze-Engler, Frank et al. Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor / translator of 460 standard pages, some of the titles listed below

Akinwumi, Olayemi, Richard Kuba, and Gerhard Vinken. "The Architecture of the Cities. Built Heritage and Urban Identity." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Armitage, Neil Philip, Stephen Dapaah-Siakwan, and Jochen Monstadt. "Precarious or Pragmatic? Self-organisation as a Characteristic of Water and Sanitation Regimes in African Cities." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Bergenthum, Hartmut, and Richard Kuba. "Central Services in Project Communication, Collaboration, Data Management and Archiving of Primary Data." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Berking, Helmut, and Rose Marie Beck. "The Gestalt of Mombasa and Accra: Modes of Conceptualising and Perceiving the City as a Meaningful Whole." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Diawara, Mamadou, and Julika Griem. "African-German Graduate Programme." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Erl, Astrid, and Roland Spiller. "The African City of Cultural Memory: A Transcultural and Intermedial Approach." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Griem, Julika, and Frank Schulze-Engler. "African Crime Fiction and the Imagination of Urbanity." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Heeg, Susanne, and Kosta Mathéy. "Self-organised Security in Low-income Neighbourhoods." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Hummel, Diana. "Regulation and Self-organisation of Urban Food Supply. The Relevance of Urban Agriculture for Cities in Africa" Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Löw, Martina. "The Formation of the City in Image Practices." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Ogechi, Nathan Oyori, and Frank Schulze-Engler. "Understanding African Cities through Youth Groupings and Networks in the Context of Popular Music and Dance in Nairobi (Kenya), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and Accra (Ghana)." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Rompel, Matthias, and Annette Haberl. "Urban Mobility, Social Protection and HIV/AIDS." Manuscript for the Proposal *Urbanity in Africa* (German Research Foundation, 2010) > Editor

Wenzlhuemer, Roland, ed. *Global Communication. Telecommunication and Global Flows of Information in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century*. Special issue of *Historical Social Research* 35 (2010). > Editor

Braun, Tina. "Theory of Practice. Experimentalsysteme in Design und Kunst." Paper. Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Basel, 2011. > Editor

Bockrath, Franz. "Cities through the Body." The Distinctiveness of Cities. Modes of Re-Production. International Conference. Darmstadt. 16.06.2011. Lecture. > Translator

Braun, Tina. "Die Sammlung im Lagerraum. Zeigen durch das Medium Buch." MA Thesis. Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Basel, 2012. > Editor

Radojevic, Nevena. "The Perspective of the Three Cupolas of the Pazzi Chapel Complex in Florence." Paper. Università degli Studi di Firenze, Facoltà di Architettura, 2012. > Editor

Fischer, Jessica. *Glossar der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*. Berlin: Stabsstelle Internationalisierung, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2013. > Editor and translator

Gohrisch, Jana, and Ellen Grünkemeier, eds. *Postcolonial Studies Across the Disciplines*. Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi, 2013. Cross/Cultures, 170; ASNEL Papers, 18. > Editor

Harder, Hans, and Barbara Mittler, eds. *Asian Punches. A Transcultural Affair*. Heidelberg: Springer, 2013. > Editor

Klein, Andreas, and Götz Spiegel. "Social Media in the Product Development Process of the Automotive Industry: A New Approach." *Human-Computer Interaction. Users and Contexts of Use*. 15th International Conference, HCI International 2013, Las Vegas, NV, USA, 21-26 July 2013. Ed. Masaaki Kurosu. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer, 2013. 396-401. > Editor

Norton, Bonny. "Identität, Literalität und das multilinguale Klassenzimmer." *Literalität erfassen: bildungspolitisch, kulturell, individuell*. Ed. Rosebrock, Cornelia, and Andrea Bertschi-Kaufmann. Basel, Weinheim: Beltz Juventa, 2013: 123-134. > Translator

Pahl, Kate. "Außerschulisches Schreiben als ein Ausdruck kultureller Literalität." *Literalität erfassen: bildungspolitisch, kulturell, individuell*. Ed. Rosebrock, Cornelia, and Andrea Bertschi-Kaufmann. Basel, Weinheim: Beltz Juventa, 2013: 97-110. > Translator

Snow, Catherine E., Paola Uccelli, and Claire White. "Bedingungen und Bedeutung des Erwerbs von Bildungssprache durch Heranwachsende." *Literalität erfassen: bildungspolitisch, kulturell, individuell*. Ed. Rosebrock, Cornelia and Andrea Bertschi-Kaufmann. Basel, Weinheim: Beltz Juventa, 2013: 29-39. > Translator

Street, Brian. "New Literacy Studies." *Literalität erfassen: bildungspolitisch, kulturell, individuell*. Ed. Rosebrock, Cornelia, and Andrea Bertschi-Kaufmann. Basel, Weinheim: Beltz Juventa, 2013: 149-166. > Translator

Wenzlhuemer, Roland. *Connecting the Nineteenth-Century World: The Telegraph and Globalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. > Editor

Clemens, Manuel. "We Must Imagine K. Happy. Kafka's Institution *The Castle* and Rancière's 'Redistribution of the Sensible'." Manuscript. Universität Lüneburg, 2015. > Editor

Müller, Hannes. "Districts with Single-Family Houses Growing Old: Strategies in Architectural and Urban Planning for a Successful Ageing in Place." Architectural Research Addressing Social Challenge. EAAE ARCC International Conference. Lisbon, Portugal. 1-18 June 2016. Lecture. > Translator

Zinecker, Johanna. "Wir müssen wachsam sein." (Interview mit Prof. Ph. D. Helen Cowie) *HUMBOLDT Die Zeitung der Alma Mater Berolinensis*. 05.01.2017. <https://www.hu-berlin.de/de/pr/medien/publikationen/humboldt/humboldt-januar-2017> [22.04.2018] >
Translator

SELECTED THESES SUPERVISED / EVALUATED

Zaytsev, Artem. "'The Few Cubic Centimetres inside Your Skull': Remaining Human in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We*." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2013.

Angelova, Antoaneta. "Narrating Diversity of Contemporary British Society in Zadie Smith's Novels *White Teeth* and *NW*." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2014.

Baryzhikova, Evgenia. "In which Ways Can the Cultural Programme of London 2012 Serve as a Model for Future Olympics?" MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2014.

Döring, Caroline. "The British Film Industry and Hollywood: Joint Venture for British Heritage Films." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2014.

Panfilova, Kseniia. "Independent British Film Marketing." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2014.

Sabyanina, Olga. "Paradise Lost: an Ecocritical Reading of Postcolonial Islands in *Reef* by Romesh Gunesequera and *The Hungry Tide* by Amitav Ghosh." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2014.

Granderrath, Cordula. "Nostalgia: A Modern Longing for an Idealised Past? Examining Notions of Heritage and Heimat with regards to National Identity in Britain and Germany." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2015.

Mehring, Clara. "Anti-Austerity Movements in the UK. Developments in Popular Protest and the Impact of the New Media." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2015.

Plötz, Sophie. "Working on the Margins. The Class-Crime Relationship in Ian Rankin's Rebus Novels: Representing and Disrupting Ideological Constructions." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2015.

Chekalova, Maiya. "The Networks of Contemporary British Artworks." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2016.

De Cock de Rameyen, Jade. "The Question of the Narrative in Intermedial British Cinema. Ben Rivers, *Two Years at Sea*. Thinking the Between of the Feature Film and the Artistic Moving-Image." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2016.

Meier, Wiebke. "An Analysis of Storytelling in Literary Museums in England with the Example of the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2016.

Weintraub, Marat. "When It's Okay to Be Gay: Contemporary Attitudes towards Sex, Sexuality and Community among British Gay Men, as Represented in the Works of Russel T Davies." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2016.

Hake, Laura. "Agatha Christie: Queen of Crime-Chronicler of Social Change?" MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2017.

Perminova, Svetlana. "Eastern European Women Writers in the UK: Migration, Memory, Identity." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2017.

Porter, Benjamin. "You Ain't no Muslim Bruv. British-Muslim Identities." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2017.

Scharf, Dorit. "Autobiographies of Criminals in Contemporary Britain. Neoliberal Scripts of Redemption in Bobby Cummines' *I Am Not a Gangster*, Erwin James' *Redeemable* and Alan Lord's *Life in Strangeways*." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2017.

Xu, Mingsong. "Contemporary Minority Bildungsroman in the UK: A Comparative Study of *The Buddha of Suburbia*, *Brick Lane* and *26a*." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2017.

Pyykkö, Sonja. "The Road to Health: Narrating Distance in Three Contemporary British Addiction Narratives." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2018.

Khusaenova, Diana. "The Role of Galleries in the Contemporary British and German Art Markets." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, (forthcoming).

Kilian, Eva-Maria. "Patriotism in Jane Austen." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, (forthcoming).

Zhang, Jianhui. "Homonormativity and Thatcher's Britain in Alan Hollinghurst's Narratives." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, (forthcoming).

Živković, Katarina. "Diversity Initiatives in the UK Publishing Industry and the Neoliberal Self." MA Thesis. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, (forthcoming).