

The Pleasure of Leisure: A Regency Ball with Jane Austen

On Saturday, 10th May 2014, the Centre for British Studies will present its edutainment project *Pleasure of Leisure: A Regency Ball with Jane Austen* within the framework of *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*.

The student-led project focuses on the social and cultural context of Great Britain in the early 19th century, the period known as the Regency Period, and endeavours to establish its connection with the present. Special emphasis is placed on Jane Austen, whose novels and numerous film adaptations have embodied the spirit of rural England and its leisure society for many generations of readers and film-watchers. 2014 is the bicentenary of Austen's famous novel, *Mansfield Park*. Now that two hundred years have passed, how different are we from those dancing in the ballrooms of 19th century Britain?

Visitors of all ages will have a chance to dive into the world of one of England's most celebrated novelists and explore what it was like to be living in the Regency period: what sports did the British fancy; how did they bring up their children; why did they take the visits to coffee houses so seriously; what did their paintings look like, and who served as their role models. The Centre for British Studies gladly invites everyone to take part in discussions on Jane Austen's relevance and contemporary spirit, or test your knowledge in a quiz, listen to short lectures known as "pecha kucha", participate in sandwich-making workshops, learn Regency dance routines, or simply have a drink in a Regency-inspired café. Have your children entertained at the children's corner, while visiting the secret "adult's corner", and learn about the British society of the early 19th century.

The Centre for British Studies at the Humboldt University was established in June 1995 as a teaching and research institute with a broad interdisciplinary agenda, and has been dedicated since then to promote the ideal of cross-cultural understanding. In 2014 the Centre for British Studies celebrates the fifteenth anniversary of the Master of British Studies programme – a postgraduate degree course that encompasses British history and politics, economics and law, as well as cultural history, literature, arts and media.

Everybody is invited to join the *Pleasure of Leisure: A Regency Ball with Jane Austen* at the Senatssaal of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6.

Saturday, 10th May 2014.

17.00 – 00.00. Children's corner open 17.00 – 20.00

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<http://www.langenachtderwissenschaften.de/>