

Berlin and the BBC
Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

3-4 November 2022

Conference programme

Day 1 Thursday 3rd November

8.45am:

Conference registration

9.00-9.30:

Welcome & Introductions

9.30-11.00:

1. *Appeasement and after*

Chair: Prof Patrick Major (University of Reading, UK)

Dr Stephanie Seul (University of Bremen, Germany) *Chamberlain's propaganda: appeasement and BBC German-language broadcasting, 1938-1940*

Prof Richard Haynes (University of Stirling, UK) *Harold Abrahams, Seymour de Lotbinière and the BBC's coverage of the 1936 Olympic Games*

Dr Emily Oliver (Magdalen College School, Oxford, UK) *A BBC for Germany: Hugh Greene in war and occupation*

11.00-11.30:

Kaffeepause

11.30-1.00pm:

2. *The BBC at War*

Chair: Katharina Schillinger MA (Museum für Kommunikation, Berlin, Germany)

Prof Vike Martina Plock (University of Exeter, UK) *Symphony of a metropolis: Berlin and the BBC German Service during the Second World War*

Prof Patrick Major (University of Reading, UK) *War of the air: BBC war reporting and radio satire during the RAF's bombing of Berlin, 1940-45*

Dr Sheer Ganor (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA) *Improbable psychological warriors: Jewish refugees at the BBC's German Service*

1.00-2.00:

Mittagessen

2.00-3.30:

3. *Orchestral diplomacy*

Chair: Prof Dörte Schmidt (Universität der Künste, Berlin)

Prof Richard Aldous (Bard College, USA) *'God's gift to BBC Music': Sir Malcolm Sargent and the conductor as diplomat and export*

Dr Toby Thacker (formerly Cardiff University, UK) *An unlikely partnership: Ernst Hermann Meyer, the GDR's foremost musician and the BBC*

Dr Annika Forkert (Royal Northern College of Music) *Beethoven or Schoenberg? Edward Clark, Berlin, and the BBC's orchestras*

3.30-4.30:

Tour of the Museum Für Kommunikation

4.30-5.00:

Kaffeepause

5.00-6.00:

Keynote lecture:

Chair: Mari Mittelhaus (Executive Director, Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft)

Sir Nicholas Kenyon (former Director of BBC3 and former Managing Director of the Barbican Centre, London), *Music in the shadow of war: national identity, broadcasting and the changing canon*

6.00-7.00:

Reception at the Museum Für Kommunikation

Day 2 Friday 4th November

9.30-10.30:

Welcome from Prof. Dr Christoph Schneider, Vice-President for Research, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Keynote lecture: Prof Dr Frank Bösch (Centre for Contemporary History, University of Potsdam) The BBC as a role model for Cold War Germany

10.30-11.00:

Kaffeepause

11.00-12.30pm:

4. The rise and fall of the Wall

Chair: Prof Dr Thomas Mergel (Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Prof Heather Gumbert (Virginia Tech University, USA) *Cold War B-Roll: cultivating a visual imaginary of Berlin on the BBC*

Dr Mark Fenemore (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK) *Dancing at the edge of the crossroads/abyss: Panorama in Berlin, 1959-1961*

Prof Kate Lacey (University of Sussex, UK) *Radio, the BBC and the Berlin Wall*

12.30-1.30:

Mittagessen

1.30-3.00:

5. The beat goes on

Chair: Dr Sydney Hutchinson (Institut für Musikwissenschaft und Medienwissenschaft, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Chris Bowlby MA (ex-BBC) *Rocking the Stasi: exploring the secret police and popular culture for the BBC*

Dr Will Studdert (Centre for British Studies, HU-B) *Teenage kicks: The BBC and Berlin subculture in the 1980s*

Dr Beate Peter (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK) *The BBC and Berlin Beats: creating cultural heritage and techno tourism*

3.00-3.30:

Kaffeepause

3.30-5.00:

6. *Featuring Berlin*

Chair: Sonya Permiakova (Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Dr Joseph Oldham (British University in Egypt, Cairo) *'You have become a citizen of no man's land - I send you my greetings': screening Berlin in the BBC's John le Carré adaptations*

Dr Katharina Herold-Zanker (Durham University, UK) *Brecht, Berlin and Bowie: the BBC's adaptation of Baal (1982)*

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman (Centre for British Studies, HU-B) & Dr Stefano Evangelista (University of Oxford, UK) *Veils of history: the 2011 BBC adaptation of Christopher and His Kind*

5.30-6.30:

Roundtable featuring BBC Berlin correspondents on reporting Berlin since the 1960s

Chair: Chris Bowlby MA (ex-BBC)

Venue: The Wintergarten, British Embassy, Wilhelmstraße

Katya Adler, Ben Bradshaw, Mark Brayne, Günter Burkart and Caroline Wyatt

6.30:

Reception: The Wintergarten, British Embassy, Wilhelmstraße