

# Public Lecture with Dr Mary Boyle

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Junior Research Fellow,  
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## 'Das Volk' and 'us English Teutones': National Literature and Identity

**Mon 12 Feb 2024**

17:00 hours s.t.  
Centre for British Studies  
Mohrenstr. 60, 10117 Berlin

Some literary works are inextricably associated with a particular nation, often to the delight of modern tourist boards. A select few texts or writers exert a greater influence. They are perceived to shape a culture at least as much as they are shaped by it. Shakespeare's England, for example. With the invention of 'national literature' in the nineteenth century, writers did not limit themselves to declaring domestic works as being of national significance.

In this lecture, Mary Boyle will explore what poems like *Beowulf* had to contribute to the cause of German unification, and how texts like the *Nibelungenlied* were employed to shape identity in Victorian Britain.

Mary Boyle is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford and a Junior Research Fellow at Linacre College, Oxford. She is the author of *Writing the Jerusalem Pilgrimage in the Late Middle Ages* (2021) and the editor of *International Medievalisms: From Nationalism to Activism* (2023).

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*