FAREWELL LECTURE
In Praise of Betting
Merchant Bets, Capitalism
and the Judgement of the
People around 1700

Mon 2 May 2022
17:00 hours s.t.
Senatssaal, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
1. Etage, Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

Professor Dr Christiane Eisenberg
Chair British History and Society 1998-2021
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Modern capitalism began in England when, after the Glorious Revolution,
Parliament approved the establishment of a National Debt, the Bank of
England brokered the refinancing from tax revenues and the Stock Market
in the City of London opened up new opportunities for money speculation.
In this time of upheaval, wagers and bets, which had been part of the
sociability of merchants and tradesmen since the Middle Ages, developed
new economic functions within the framework of capitalist economic activity.
This lecture explains the social framework and practices of the merchant
betting tradition and shows how they eased the transition to a new economic
mode both for individuals and the state.

Christiane Eisenberg was Professor of British History and Society at
the Centre for British Studies until her retirement in October 2021.
She also served as Director in 2008-10, 2013-15 and 2019-21. This
lecture is her farewell to Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and her Berlin
friends and colleagues.

Please note: due to changing COVID-19 restrictions, the details and the
format of the events are subject to change. For the latest information see
our website www.gbz.hu-berlin.de

Everyone is welcome to attend.