

J LECTURE

A gendered 'chilling effect': what Al Fayed and other British scandals can tell us about law, power and women's free speech

Monday, 30 June 2025

17:00 hours s.t.

Centre for British Studies
Mohrenstr. 60, 10117 Berlin

Dr Judith Townend

Reader in Digital Society and Justice (Law)
University of Sussex

The #metoo movement of 2017 revealed widespread silencing of allegations of sexual violence in institutions of power. Further exposés of 'corporate abuse of women' have followed, including that concerning former Harrods owner Mohamed Al Fayed. Yet the gendered dynamics of speech deterrence were not a focus for the 2010-13 campaign for UK libel reform. This lecture re-visits these debates through the lens of gender and power.

Dr Judith Townend is a Reader (Associate Professor) in Digital Society and Justice at the University of Sussex, where her socio-legal research concerns British media, law and policy. She is a co-director of the Sussex Digital Humanities Lab.

with a response by Guest Professor Sam McIntosh

English Law, British Economy and Politics
Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Mohrenstraße 60 | 10117 Berlin | www.gbz.hu-berlin.de

Register at: events.gbz@hu-berlin.de

For last-minute changes please see our website:
www.gbz.hu-berlin.de