

# VALEDICTORY LECTURE

## How (Not) to Compare Laws

This valedictory lecture is a co-operation between the Faculty of Law and the Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**Monday, 17 November 2025**

17:00 hours s.t.

Senatssaal, Main Building  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
Unter den Linden 6, 10999 Berlin

## Prof. Dr. Gerhard Dannemann, MA (Oxford)

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

Going beyond the wording of rules and dogmatic constructions, comparative lawyers have studied the functions of rules, often discovering hidden similarities. Critics of functionalism emphasize otherness and may strive for decolonisation of laws. In the debate about dos and don'ts of comparing laws, should we focus more on how not to compare laws?

Professor Dannemann, formerly Reader in Comparative Law at the University of Oxford, took up his Chair at the Centre in 2003. This lecture draws on his experience in explaining German law to English students, academics, courts and lawmakers, and English law to German audiences, and in drafting rules which can operate in different legal systems.

with a tribute by

## Prof. Dr iur. Dr phil. Dr h.c. Stefan Grundmann, LL.M. (Berkeley)

German, European and International Private and Economic Law  
Faculty of Law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*Everyone is welcome to attend.*

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Register at: [events.gbz@hu-berlin.de](mailto:events.gbz@hu-berlin.de)

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