



# Alumni Newsletter

## 2022/23

Alumni Interim Person: Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

## Dear Alumni

We hope this finds you well and that you are able to overcome the many challenges posed by the current crises in different parts of the world. Our thoughts are with all our alumni but at the moment, perhaps most of all with those of you who are from Türkiye.

2022 was a special year for the Centre, as we were allowed to once again have events in person. One of the absolute highlights was the graduation ceremony which took place in September – several generations of alumni came together to celebrate their degrees. It was a special moment for all of us as we had not been allowed to organise this kind of event during the pandemic. Seeing thriving alumni with interesting first and in some cases, even more interesting, second jobs was a joy for all of us.



Many staff members have since left the Centre, and a new generation of lecturers and researchers has just started or is about to begin. We welcome Riley Linebaugh, our new history postdoc, Dr Paolo Chiocchetti, our new politics postdoc, Evelina Bazaeva, herself an alumna, and new culture and literature lecturer and hope soon to be able to welcome a new law lecturer as well. Meanwhile, finding a solution for the placement issue is difficult since the Erasmus programme has now officially ended in the UK but we are working hard to find an interim solution and hope that once the Northern Ireland Protocol issues have been resolved, the British government will once again allow foreign student mobility for internship purposes.

Public events, panel debates and readings have seen plenty of response from audiences both in Berlin and beyond. We now do everything hybrid, which is more work, but also more fun as we get to link up with people who are not in Berlin but further afield. It is also a great chance for our alumni to join us again so please do register for our upcoming events.

Our new research focus with several strands of activities analyses the many different legacies of empire, often with a comparative or Berlin angle. We will integrate this topic into our teaching activities, which have also been expanded to encompass students from all Berlin universities as part of the Berlin University Alliance. Our Oxford-Berlin ties are still going strong, with our first Einstein Oxford-Berlin Fellow Prof Dr Stefano Evangelista joining us in October, together with two early-career researchers, to work on cosmopolitanism and its boundaries in Berlin and London.

Last year's student project was a success, despite the terrible weather which wreaked havoc on the original plan of having walking tours on British writers in Berlin.

A highlight of the autumn was the large international conference on "Berlin and the BBC" which coincided with the BBC's anniversary and was attended by more than 80 people from the UK and Germany.



Our new annual report has just been published, you can download it from our website. We look forward to hearing from you, be it a new job, a new address, or a new baby. Do stay in touch and hopefully some time soon, we can have another in person alumni get-together.

**Best wishes for 2023,  
Gesa Stedman**

**Welcome to Class 2022-24!**

In October 2022, a new group of students started the MA British Studies programme here at GBZ: 27 students from no less than 16 different countries with the usual mix of academic backgrounds, mainly English Studies, but also Economics and even Engineering. It is a lively and friendly cohort and we are happy to have them.



# Placements

Although class 2021-23 was the last to enjoy the support from the Erasmus+ programme, quite a few students did a remote placement due to financial hardships and insurmountable obstacles during the immigration process. Here is a list of last year's providers, in and outside of the UK:

AMERA \* Applause GmbH \* Cheltenham Festivals \* Deveron Projects \* European College of Business and Management \* European Diplomats \* Futurepath \* Ikarus Production \* Jackie Baillie MSP \* Keith Drury Art Gallery \* Knowunity \* Latmus Ltd \* Leeds Film Festival \* Literature Wales \* Metal Culture \* National Trust Lyme \* pakt agency \* Queen Mary University London \* SAP London\* The Poverty Alliance \* Tourism Allies \* Trail Pursuit Ltd \* Wayfair \* West Midlands Europe Hub Brussels

# Events

## KEYNOTE LECTURE 2022

*The Drawbacks of Political Stability. The British Case*

**Prof Dr Linda Colley, CBE, FBA, FRSL**

Shelby M.C. Davis 1958 Professor of History, Princeton University

9 May

## FAREWELL LECTURE

*In Praise of Betting: Merchant Bets, Capitalism and the Judgement of the People around 1700*

**Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg**

2 May

## MONDAY LECTURES

*What Future for Wales in a Fractured Union? A Wales Governance Centre Panel Discussion*

**Professors Richard Wyn Jones, Jo Hunt, and Dan Wincott**

School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University

27 January

*"On Not Translating Africa" Jennifer N. Makumbi and the Production of Literary Value*

**Professor Dr Birgit Neumann**

English and American Studies, Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf

16 May

*An Artist Lecture. Notes from Lubberland*

**With Matthew Cowan**

Berlin-based Artist and Researcher

11 July

## PUBLIC READING

*Without Warning & Only Sometimes (2022)*

**Kit de Waal**

1 November

# Student Project ALL(E)IN IN BERLIN

BY CHIARA HARRISON LAMBE

## The Cultural Project Management event finally moved back from an online project to being a live event as part of the Open Humboldt Festival 2022

In 2022, the students of the MA British Studies class 2021-23 brought their Cultural Project Management course to fruition by organising *All(e)in Berlin*, led by student project managers. This interactive, multifaceted event showcased how British people feel about, live in, and interact with Berlin.

*All(e)in Berlin* consisted of three parts: walking tours ‘Walking the History: Queer Berlin’ and ‘A City in Words: When Women Write Letters’ as well as a panel discussion on ‘A Conversation on Identity: When Britons Meet Berliners’. The walking tours guided participants through different parts of Berlin: the city’s vibrant queer history and the sights that inspired visiting British women writers in the 1920s. The panel discussion asked questions about the real-life experiences of Britons living in Berlin. These events were intended to be held outside, in the Ehrenhof of the main building of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, on 1 July 2022. Inclement weather conditions prevented part of the event from going forward as planned; however, the students successfully implemented their back-up plans for holding the tours and discussion inside the main building.

‘Walking the History: Queer Berlin’ was reconfigured as an inter-active quiz that provided an overview of queer history in Berlin from the Weimar era to the present day and explored the close connection between queer communities in Berlin and the UK.

‘A City in Words: When Women Write Letters’ was able to proceed as planned. Participants were taken to nearby locations that intrigued British women writers who visited, to quote Virginia Woolf, this “sad but lovely” city in the 1920s. They enjoyed readings of the works and letters of such writers and thinkers as Woolf, Vita Sackville-West and Alix Strachey.

‘A Conversation on Identity: When Britons Meet Berliners’, explored the experiences of British people living in a new environment – Berlin. A student moderator led the discussion with special British guests, translator Katy Derbyshire and co-founder of the national association ‘British in Germany e.V.’ Daniel Tetlow, in taking a deeper look at the particularities of their experience in a post-Brexit Europe and how and if British identity is challenged by living in Berlin.

The Centre for British Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is an interdisciplinary research and teaching institution. Bringing together specialists and students from various backgrounds, the Centre offers a theoretical and practical training in all things British. *All(e)in Berlin* is a realisation of both tracks, allowing the students to apply their knowledge and skills in practice, while also bringing them, newcomers to the city from all over the globe, closer to Berlin.

How about a very British afternoon in the heart of Berlin? Walk with us along the traces of British women writers of the Weimar period, check how well you know the city in our Berlin queer history quiz, and listen in as we talk about the challenges of making Berlin a home with British Berliners themselves.

Scan the QR for more info:

Instagram: @british\_berlin  
TikTok: @alleinberlin  
Twitter: @alleinberlin

**Contacts**

**All(e)in Berlin**

01.07 2022

Centre for British Studies  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Linden 5,  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

**Walking The History: Queer Berlin**

Walk along with us as we follow the footsteps of those who paved the way for the queer community to win their rights. Take your chance at our quiz and use our questions to take a closer look at the struggles and successes of LGBTQIA+ communities across the UK and Germany over the past decades. Who knows, you may even win the prize! Cheers!

15:00

**A City in Words: When Women Write Letters**

Some letters are written for a special someone. Some are written for a special somewhere. Join us as we walk to locations made famous in the Weimar era, read the words of famous British women writers such as Virginia Woolf and Alix Strachey to see what enchanted them about 1920s Berlin, and explore the city from a new perspective.

16:00

**A Conversation On Identity: When Britons Meet Berliners**

To be or not to be British? That is the question hanging over the heads of many British immigrants since the UK left the EU in 2020. Join us and our guests: Katy Derbyshire and Daniel Tetlow in conversation as we consider this and other questions on what it's like to be British in Berlin.

17:00

Walking The History: Queer Berlin  
A City in Words: When Women Write Letters

Bundestag  
Tipl Am  
Kanzleramt  
Brandenburger Tor  
British Embassy  
Kornische Oper Berlin  
HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY