

CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES  
GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM



# Annual Report

2021



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# What is the Centre for British Studies?

The Centre for British Studies at Berlin's Humboldt-Universität is a unique academic institution offering interdisciplinary postgraduate study in English in the capital of Germany. We were founded in 1995 after the fall of the Berlin Wall and German re-unification in recognition of the UK's important role in Germany and Berlin after World War II and during the Cold War.

## WE OFFER:

- An interdisciplinary international degree M.A. in British Studies
- The Berlin Graduate School of British Studies for interdisciplinary PhD projects with a focus on the UK
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research opportunities in subjects relating to the UK
- A forum for a range of public debates, lectures and events on topical British and academic issues

Our popular Master course takes two years to complete and includes a three-month placement in the UK. Our course aims to provide students with a good general overview of Britain's past and present while offering a range of options to study in more depth. Our students, graduates, and staff are drawn from all over the world giving the Centre a stimulating international atmosphere.

## STUDENT VOICES

We would like to thank the Centre for its continuing support, which helped us to go through these (at times) challenging times together. One never feels left behind or alone at GBZ and that is just great and motivating (and very unique indeed).

MA British Studies Class 2020-22

# The Centre in 2021

2021 saw a change of guard at the Centre, with Professor Christiane Eisenberg taking her well-deserved retirement at the end of September, and Professor Miles Taylor joining our team in October as our new Professor of British History and Society.

Christiane became the first person to hold our chair in history when she joined the Centre in 1998. She served as our director from 2008-2010, 2013-2015 and in a final lap from 2019 until her retirement. She taught every single student who ever joined our British Studies course since it started in 1999.

She has made highly significant contributions to interdisciplinary research on modern British history, notably in the areas of market economy and society, cooperatives and trade unions, and sport, and more generally on historical comparisons and cultural transfer. Christiane remains affiliated with the Centre as Professor emeritus. Needless to say, she is busy working on her next book, on “The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism”. You will find more about this on pp. 68f. We are very much looking forward to her public farewell lecture on 2 May, details of which will be announced on our website.

We were very fortunate to recruit Miles Taylor as Christiane’s successor. He is an internationally acclaimed scholar and specialist in 19th-century Britain and its empire. Miles joined us from the University of York, and between 2008 and 2014 was Director of the Institute of Historical Research in London. His recent books include *Empress: Queen Victoria and India* (Yale 2018) and (as co-editor) *The Utopian Universities: A Global History of the New Campuses of the 1960s* (Bloomsbury, 2020). You will find more about Miles on p. 66, and about his current research projects on pp. 40f.

The ongoing COVID pandemic continued to affect all aspects of the Centre’s work. We moved much of our work to what Germans stubbornly refer to as “home office” (work from home). We were allowed to resume some face-to-face teaching in the last weeks of the summer term, and to return to full face-to-face teaching at the beginning of the new academic year in October. We made good use of our recently acquired



conference technology to offer most classes in hybrid fashion so that students who could not join due to late visa issues, COVID restrictions or childcare responsibilities were able to follow classes via videolink. Deadline extensions and increased tutorial support helped to keep our second year students on course for delivering their master theses. Flexible solutions had to be found to adapt our mandatory work placements to the changed circumstances (see p. 20). We had to postpone our keynote lecture for the Academic Year 2021/22 to 9 May 2022, when Professor Linda Colley will eventually present on “The Drawbacks of Political Stability. The British Case”. Our other public events, a total of nine “Monday Lectures” were held in online-formats, and attracted wide audiences (see pp. 54 ff).

Student admission numbers bounced back to their pre-pandemic levels, with 33 new students joining the MA British Studies in October (see p. 14). And our 2021 student project on “Britons in Berlin: An Exploration through the Senses” was once again presented in an online format (see p. 18) – with the advantage that you can still visit this at <https://british-berlin.com/>. Our students were greatly assisted by Anisia Petcu, our alumna turned colleague, who replaced staff member Johanna Zinecker during her maternity leave.

Brexit remained part of the Centre’s agenda and work, accounting for a significant proportion of the numerous media appearances by our staff. A remaining worry is that, with the UK finally dropping out of Erasmus+ in 2023, and with no replacement agreement in sight, there is currently no viable route under

which future students can obtain a visa for their work placement in the UK, with the exception of Northern Ireland. We continue to explore possible solutions with the help of our Advisory Council, the British Embassy, the British Council and the German Academic Exchange Service, while at the same time increasing work placement options in both parts of the Island of Ireland.

2021 was another productive year for research, as evidenced by the list of our publications on pp. 50f. We also held a number of conferences and workshops, including “(Re)Thinking Diversity in Publishing: British and German Publishing Professionals in Conversation” (see p. 28), “Immigration Law and Policy, Border Control and Migrant Deaths” (pp. 29f), “Affective Polarisation” (p. 30) and “F.A. Mann and his contribution to the development of English, German, European and International Law” (pp. 34f), and “The British Aristocracy and the Modern World” (pp. 36f).



A highlight in 2021 was a three part exhibition on “Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond” as part of a large project jointly undertaken by Professor Gesa Stedman and Professor Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) in collaboration with the Literaturhaus Berlin, the Bodleian Library and the events and exhibitions team at HU. You will find more information about this on pp. 32f.

Our flagship in teaching remains the unique MA British Studies course, which new readers in particular will find explained, starting on p. 7. We continue to attract students from all over the globe, who come to Berlin as the only place where “all things British” in the areas of literature, culture, history, sociology, law, economy and politics are taught in an interdisciplinary and practice-oriented master course.

As I am writing these lines, war has descended on Ukraine. We are deeply worried about our many Ukrainian alumni and all other former or present students and colleagues who may have become engulfed in this senseless act of military aggression and bloodshed.

It remains for me to thank everybody who has helped and contributed to the work of the Centre during 2021, and in particular Corinna Radke for having once again patiently and skillfully compiled and edited this Annual Report.

Gerhard Dannemann  
Director

# MA British Studies Course Description

**Our postgraduate Masters course started in 1999 and quickly became a resounding success. In 2014 the unique MBS was relaunched as a Master of Arts in British Studies. We regularly update our course based on staff and student feedback. We offer a 24-month course (120 ECTS) which includes compulsory and elective modules, a work placement of three months, and a writing period of six months for the MA thesis. We offer a unique learning experience due to the diverse academic background of our international student body, the interdisciplinarity of the study programme, and a combination of lectures, tutorials, and practical workshops which allow us to offer highly personalised tutoring while simultaneously fostering early-stage independent research.**

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

**The aims and objectives of the course are:**

- to add competence in British Studies to qualifications acquired by the students during their first degree course
- to prepare students for positions in firms and institutions which deal with the United Kingdom or other English-speaking nations
- to provide students with an understanding of the characteristic features and the transformations of British identities and institutions in a European perspective
- to teach students interdisciplinary methods and approaches, enabling them to think and work contextually
- to provide students with the competence to acquire and integrate knowledge independently and to make research-based decisions
- to provide students with competence in cross-cultural understanding, communication, and mobility.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

1st Semester

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
5 ECTS	5 ECTS	10 ECTS	10 ECTS
Introductory Module	History	Law, Economics, Politics	Interdisciplinary Project I (including Culture and Literature)

2nd Semester

Module 5	Module 7*	Module 8	Module 9	Module 10	Module 11	Module 12
6 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS	8 ECTS
Career Skills	Inter-disciplinary Project II	Economics and Management	Politics and Society	Law in Context	Media, History, and Culture	Culture and Literature

\*Choose three out of Modules 7-12.

3rd Semester

Module 6	Compulsory Elective*	Module 13
5 ECTS	10 ECTS	15 ECTS
Advanced Academic Methods, Writing and Debating	Module 14: Advanced Seminars in British Studies	Work Placement in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland (three months)

\* Module 14 may be substituted by other HU courses

4th Semester

MA Thesis
30 ECTS
Academic Research Paper on a British Studies Topic (six months)

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The postgraduate degree course is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. The course lasts two years. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree "MA British Studies". The first semester consists of a series of lectures and seminars which are compulsory for all students. In the second semester students can choose three out of six options. Students have to attend an average of around 20 hours of classes per week. During the Master Phase students take part in advanced seminars including 'transdisciplinary elective modules' which can also be chosen from other Berlin university master programmes. Furthermore, they spend three months on a work placement with a firm or institution in the UK or Ireland. The final part is dedicated to writing a six-month MA Thesis. The entire course is taught in English.

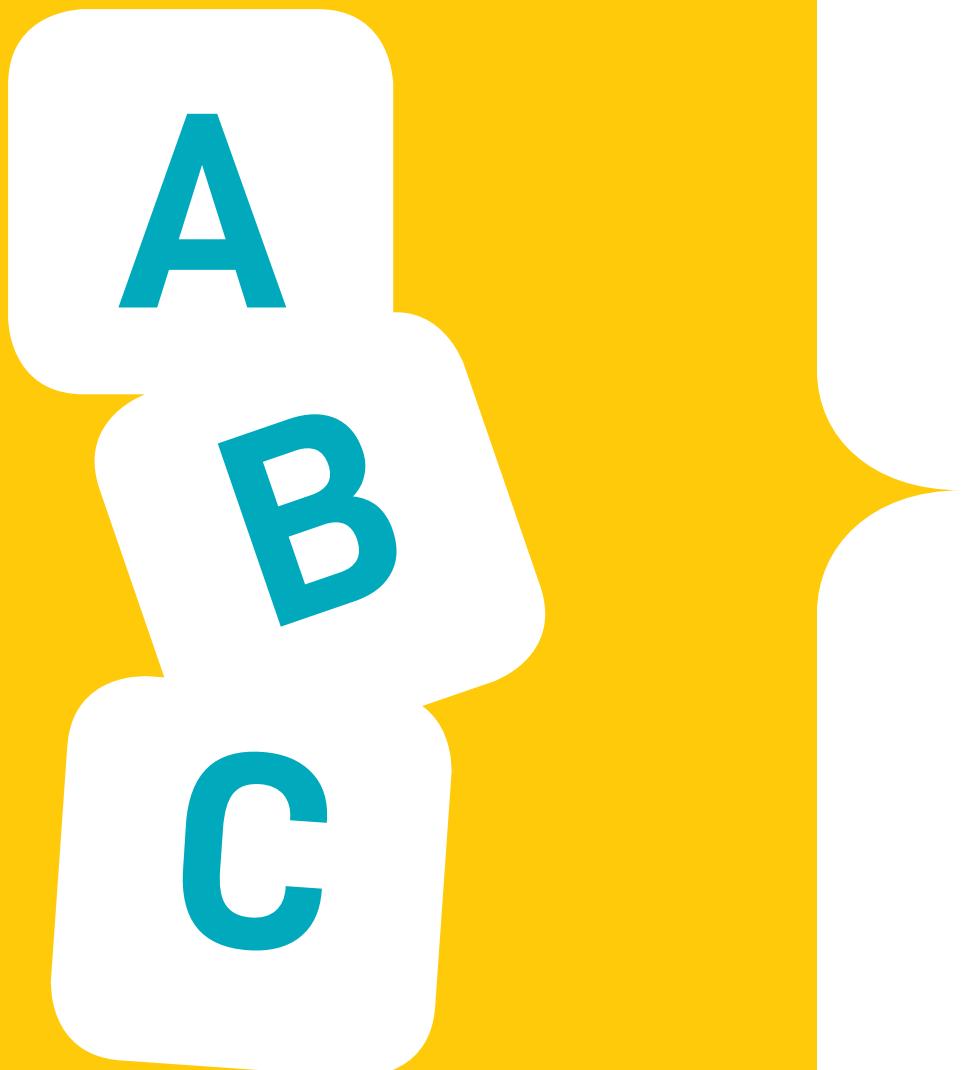
## ADMISSION

Applicants are required to have a very good first university degree in any subject. Furthermore, candidates need to speak very good English. The application must contain proof of proficiency in the form of an ETS TOEFL certificate (minimum score of 600 for the paper-based test, 250 for the computer-based test, or 100 for the internet-based test), or an ETS TOEIC test (minimum score of 800), or a Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (any grade), or a Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (grade A or B), or an IELTS test (level 7.0). A working knowledge of German is highly advisable. Applications must be submitted by 30 April of the year in which the applicant intends to start the course; applicants should use the application form available on the Centre's website. Places will be allocated early in July. The course starts each year in October (winter semester).



# Modules of the Course

The master course British Studies contains the following modules equalling 120 ECTS credit points:



## A) COMPULSORY MODULES

Introductory Module	5 ECTS
History	5 ECTS
Law, Economics, Politics	10 ECTS
Interdisciplinary Project I	10 ECTS
Career Skills	6 ECTS
Advanced Academic Methods, Writing and Debating	5 ECTS
Placement	15 ECTS
Master Thesis	30 ECTS

## B) COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MODULES

Three out of the following six modules have to be chosen:

Interdisciplinary Project II	8 ECTS
Media, History, and Culture	8 ECTS
Culture and Literature	8 ECTS
Economics and Management	8 ECTS
Politics and Society	8 ECTS
Law in Context	8 ECTS

## C) COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MODULES AT OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Further optional modules may be chosen from either the Centre for British Studies (see below) or from any other master programme that offers such modules.

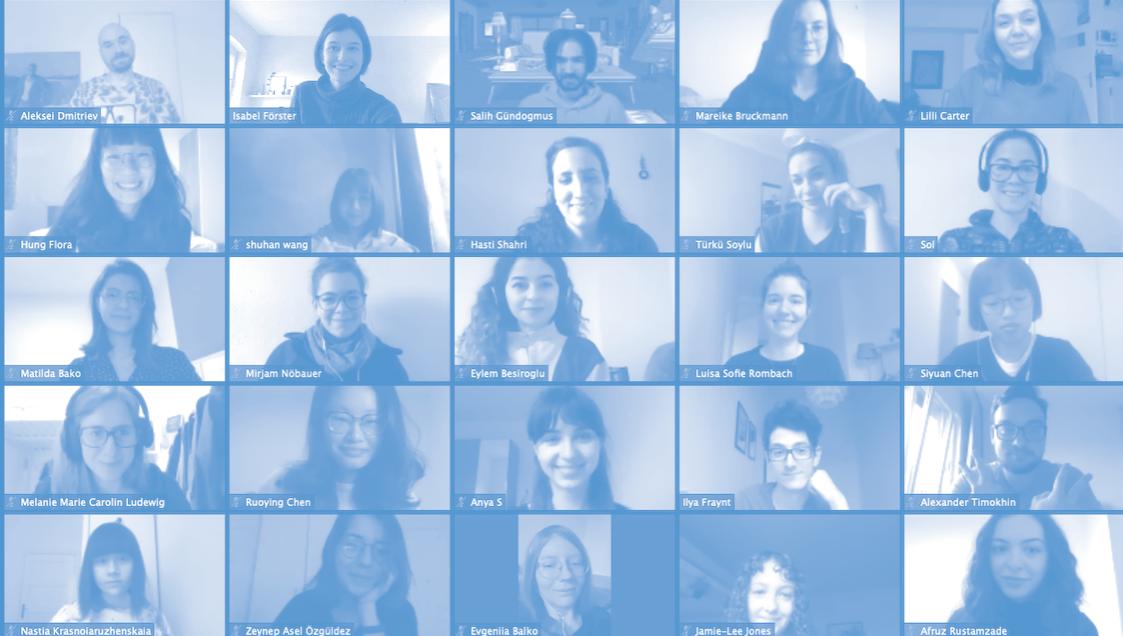
## MODULES FOR STUDENTS OF OTHER HU STUDY PROGRAMMES

Here, students from other HU master programmes may attend the following module:

Advanced Seminars in British Studies	10 ECTS
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# MA British Studies Students

## Class 2020–2022



NAME	COUNTRY	FIRST DEGREE
Bako, Matilda	Albania	Linguistics and Literature
Balko, Evgenia	Russia	English and German; Education
Beşiroğlu, Eylem	Turkey	Interpreting and Translation
Bruckmann, Mareike	Germany	English and American Studies; General Linguistics
Carter, Lilli	Germany/UK	English Philology
Chen, Ruoying	China	English Studies
Chen, Siyuan	China	English Language and Literature
Dmitriev, Aleksei	Russia	Philology
Förster, Isabel	Germany	English Studies, German Studies
Fraynt, Ilya	Russia	Modern and Contemporary History of Europe and the US
Gündoğmuş, Salih	Turkey	English Translation and Interpretation
Hung, Wei Chun	Taiwan	Foreign Language and Literature
Jones, Jamie-Lee	UK	French Studies with International Relations
Krasnoiaruzhenskaia, Anastasiia	Russia	English
Ludewig, Melanie	Germany	European Studies
Mercado, Soledad Mabel	Argentina	English Language and Culture
Nöbauer, Mirjam	Austria	English and American Studies
Özgülde, Zeynep Asel	Turkey	English Language and Literature
Rombach, Luisa Sofie	Germany	English and American Studies
Rustamzade, Afruz	Azerbaijan	Translation (English-Russian)
Shahri, Hasti	Iran	English Language and Literature
Solodovnikova, Anna	Russia	Education (Teaching English)
Soylu, Türkü	Turkey	English Language and Literature; Film Studies
Timokhin, Alexander	Russia	International Relations
Wang, Shuhan	China	English Language and Literature

# MA British Studies Students

## Class 2021–2023

NAME	COUNTRY	FIRST DEGREE
Akosman, Gökçe	Turkey	BA English Translation and Interpreting
Aksu, İpek	Turkey	BA English Language Teaching
Ashikhina, Victoria	Russia	BA Linguistics
Çalışkan, Mesut	Turkey	BA English Language and Teaching
Çayirezmez, Ecem Hatice	Turkey	BA English Language Education
Çebi, Nergiz	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Çelik, Ezgi Nur	Turkey	BA English Translation and Interpreting
Çelik, Mehmet Bugra	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Chan, Man Ying	Hong Kong	BA English for Professional Communication
Develi, Dilara	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
El Sabbakh, Izis	Russia	MA (Hons) Publishing Arts
Ergü, Fatma Nurşah	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpreting (English)
Karakullukcu, Elif İlayda	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Kashina, Iuliia	Russia	BA Pedagogy (English and German)
Khchoian, Narine	Russia	BA Linguistics, Translation, Interpretation Studies (English and German)
Khusnutdinova, Dinara	Russia	BA Linguistics (English and German)
Korotkova, Olga	Russia	BA Linguistics and Translation (English and German)
Liubimova, Anna	Russia	BA Liberal Arts and Sciences
Lui, Mei Yee	Hong Kong	BA (Hons) English
Ma, Xinyi	China	BA English
Moiseenko, Irina	Russia	BA Philology
Nadziejko, Hubert	Poland	BA French and Italian, Translation Studies, Social Sciences, Musical Theatre
Özkan, Rojan Mevsim	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature

Raeessi Toussi, Seyed Navid	Iran	MA World Studies / BA English Language Translation
Sufianova, Karina	Russia	BA Philology, Interpreting; Translator for Business Communications
Suleiman, Tariq	Egypt	BSc Architecture
Valchinova, Silvia	Bulgaria	BA English and American Studies
Vasileva, Anastasiia	Russia	BA Philology and Literary Studies
Vavilova, Yulianna	Russia	BA English Philology
Wang, Sumin	China	BA English
Yan, Shuya	China	BA English
Yılmaz, Serkan	Turkey	MA English Language and Literature
Yurdaer, Sena	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpreting (English)



# Teaching Example

## LITERATURE WORKSHOP

BY SONYA PERMIAKOVA

In 2021 the Literature Workshop included two special guests. One of them was Marianne Graffam, an actor whose name might be familiar as she has been teaching the theatre workshop for several years. This time, despite the pandemic, the first-semester students got the chance to experience the workshop in person. They discussed and re-interpreted some scenes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. When the students were asked to re-enact a scene from the play, they chose themes that hit close to home. Coming from different parts of the world, they raised questions that were relevant to their countries and today's political climate, proving that theatre – Shakespeare included! – is highly relevant.

Our second guest was the Berlin-based British writer and editor Paul Scraton. Paul took the students on a literary walk through Berlin city centre, which, despite the typical November weather, was an exciting investigation of the Berlin myth. Paul read from British writers whose lives have been connected with Berlin in different ways: Priya Basil, Musa Okwonga, Timothy Garton Ash, Philip Henscher and Jane Flett. Walking past the controversial Humboldt Schloss and the memorial on Wilhelmstraße commemorating the Africa Conference, the students were invited to ask why and how certain events get remembered. After the walking tour, the students and Paul came back to the Centre to proceed with the second part of the class, which was a creative writing workshop inspired by the tour.



# Further Activities

## VISIT TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY

In 2020 we were not allowed to visit the British Embassy for obvious reasons, but this year we had a stroke of luck and were fortunate to be able to turn up in person on 11 November 2021. 24 places were available for the 2021 class of 32 students for a tour around with our contact person Astrid Ladd, Team Assistant at the Press Office, so it was a case of first come, first served with a waiting list.

A special thanks also to Mr Nick Wareham, Embassy Spokesperson and Head of Public Diplomacy & Internal Politics at the British Embassy Berlin, for taking his time to answer the many questions put to him by this new Class 21-23.

## ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Due to the pandemic and lockdown, libraries and other common spaces so essential for students to study in were often not available. As a result, some of our MA British students struggled with productivity and feelings of isolation. In order to respond to this problem in some way, Sonya Permiakova started a new format: a digital study group on Zoom. The format worked well, and currently the study group still runs every Friday. The sessions are chaired by Sonya Permiakova and Felicia Kompio.

At the beginning of the session, each of the participants announces the goal that they have for the study session. The course and the subject matter is up to each participant: it can be anything from writing parts of an essay or MA thesis to doing homework for one's German class – in other words, anything that requires intellectual labour. Each session consists of two 50-minute work units with a 10-minute break in between. The purpose of this study group is to create a digital space in which the presence of several people working at the same time might push one to focus on one's own work, too.

This is one of many ways in which the Centre supports its students during the pandemic. Some members of staff also coach students individually, send out regular bulletins on mental and physical health issues, and have set up both collective and individual support sessions with two professional coaches and therapists to help students manage these difficult times.

# Spotlight

## Student Project

### BRITONS IN BERLIN

AN EXPLORATION THROUGH THE SENSES

BY ANISIA PETCU

**The Cultural Project Management event once again took the form of an interactive website, accompanied by live events and discussions.**

The project is the second of this theme, taking over and expanding on last year's online exhibition *A Hundred Years of Britons in Berlin: From the Roaring 20s to the 2020s*. Berlin has long been known as a hub for artists looking for both inspiration and a place to call home, where they feel free to realise their creative

potential. Over the years, the free, vibrant, and stimulating character of the city attracted creative minds from all over the world, including many from Britain.

How did British artists experience the city? What influence did Berlin have on their art? How was Berlin represented in their works? To answer these questions, the exhibition looked at British artists' experience in Berlin, as it was felt with all the senses. The overall time

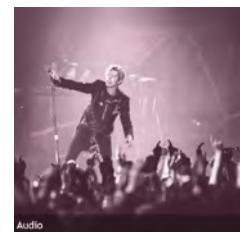


period covers the 1920s to the present day, with particular attention paid to the Weimar years, the Cold War, and Brexit.

On the 11th of June, we inaugurated the exhibition with an online film projection and Q&A session with figurative painter and film maker Barbara Loftus. Barbara Loftus' work explores her family's history through the memories of her German mother, who was born into a Jewish family, having been the only member of the family who managed to escape Germany during National Socialism. The theme of Barbara Loftus' current work is the convergence of personal memory and major historical events.

The following day, we held a panel of British drag artists, who candidly discussed Berlin's reputation as a friendly space for the LGBTQ+ community. The discussion covered topics such as the meaning and significance of drag, queer spaces and queer communities in Berlin, the myth of Berlin as a particularly queer-friendly space, and the challenges of the pandemic for independent artists.

[HTTPS://BRITISH-BERLIN.COM/](https://british-berlin.com/)



# Work Placements

During the third semester of the MA British Studies, the students get the opportunity to gain experience in an organisation relevant for their future careers and to 'study the UK on the ground' via our placement scheme. This feature has consistently been one of the most popular elements of the study programme.

As this was another year with a lot of uncertainty with regard to travel restrictions, lockdowns and purely home office opportunities due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the work placement scheme again adopted various alternative options, such as remote and more Germany-based placements with a clear UK-focus.



The UK leaving the European Erasmus+ exchange programme will go on to be a major threat to the Centre's placement scheme as the status is essential

for receiving a visa under the Temporary Worker – Government Authorised Exchange scheme (T5). The parties involved, such as the DAAD, the British Council, the British Embassy in Berlin and also Humboldt-Universität, are discussing possible alternatives. Most ideas seem to focus on a bilateral solution rather than an overall EU exchange programme. The talks are ongoing and we sincerely hope that we will be able to keep this favourite part of our programme and to enable future stays in the UK.

## PROVIDER VOICE

We have been delighted to provide placement opportunities for the University's students over the last few years. Each student has brought something different to us and it has been a great experience for our team and our community to have their support.

Helen Mill, The Village Storytelling Centre, Glasgow

# Report

Alexei Dmitriev

## GLASGOW SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

I came to Glasgow to work for the Glasgow Short Film Festival after briefly seeing friends in London and Nottingham. NOTE TO SELF: never arrive before having found a long-term accommodation (when choosing the location for the next three months check if the Olympic Games, Tour de France or United Nations Climate Change Conference might interfere with your stay). I have known the festival and its director for a while, so I spent the major chunk of the internship watching and rating short films. By the time I left, the team moved to the process of the final selection and programmes' formation. And we are still discussing doing a special programme or an event curated by me (but Covid might interfere with our plans). During the 90 days, I watched 1,500 short films; visited Dundee, Aberdeen and the beautiful town of Huntly where I cooked a salad and talked about Joseph Beuys; went to a stand-up comedy club and a bar hit by a helicopter (in 2013); ate at all but one Michelin-listed restaurants (two were great); saw a lot of men in shorts (November!); learned about Charles Rennie Mackintosh; walked a lot. It helps to have friends in the place of the internship as it can be hard to make friends quickly (I, surprisingly, did not make any new friends). Giving a thought before arriving on how to spend potential leisure time is not a waste of thought. The last piece of advice comes from a writer and a UK national: Don't Panic.



Alexei met our long-standing guest lecturer Prof Gerry Mooney in Glasgow

# Placement Providers 2021/22

- Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons
- Birmingham City Council, Office in Brussels
- Clear Sky Publishing Ltd., Exeter
- Deveron Projects, Huntly
- European College of Business and Management, London
- Genius Solutions Ltd./Languages Training and Development, Witney
- Glasgow Film Festival
- Glasgow Short Film Festival
- Glasgow Women's Library
- Leeds Film Festival
- London and Partners, Berlin
- Metal Culture, Liverpool
- New Island Books, Dublin
- Pepper Media Holding GmbH, Berlin
- Queen Mary University of London
- Red Lorry Yellow Lorry, London
- The Village Storytelling Centre, Pollok, Glasgow
- Universities Scotland, Edinburgh
- Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere

# Report

Anastasiia Krasnoiaruzhenskaia

## LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The work placement is definitely one of the highlights of our M.A. programme. My plan was to try myself in film. And it happened – I worked as a Film Programme & Production Assistant at the Leeds International Film Festival. Having joined the team two months before the festival itself started and when the programme was almost ready, I was helping out with some of the film research and content for marketing activities. The first month I was working from home, which was completely fine: the whole team was working remotely due to the pandemic. However, we had regular meetings and various working chats. Later I was lucky to work in the office in the Town Hall. Closer to the festival and during it, I was taking on more responsibilities – from the website upload and set-up of venues to organising award ceremonies and escorting guests. It was a great chance to learn how to deal with such a wide range of tasks in this industry. All the team members are extremely nice; I have gained lots of new contacts. Undoubtedly, this experience will be significant for my further job seeking adventure.



Anastasiia (second from left) and her team at the Leeds Film Festival

# MA Theses

**In spite of restricted access to libraries and student work spaces, our students of class 2019-21 valiantly embarked on their MA theses:**

- The Representation of Transnational Surrogacy in the Play *Bodies*
- The Aftermath of Destruction: Trauma and Environment in the Works of Aminatta Forna
- Political Marketing in UK General Elections
- An Examination of Gender Roles in Filmic Representations of the Scottish Highlands
- Haunted Britain: The Victorian Fascination with the Paranormal and its Literary Manifestation
- Situating the Self and Society in a Pandemic
- The Impact of Brexit on UK-EU Relations and Trade
- Cinematic Ekphrasis and the Novel: “Real” and “Imaginary” Films in J. Coe’s Fiction
- Not in Control: Interactive Branching Narratives in *Black Mirror: Bandersnatch*
- Migrant Women in British Media
- British Paganists Online: Constructing Paganist Identity on the Internet in the Early 21st Century
- The Legal and Policy Framework on Domestic Abuse in Scotland
- Ali Smith’s Seasonal Quartet
- At the Crossroads: Cultural Identities in Contemporary British Art

- Staging “Home”: The Spatial Politics of the Domestic Sphere in Shelagh Delaney’s Drama *A Taste of Honey* and Arnold Wesker’s Play *Roots*
- The Disparity of Attention Around Civil Rights Movements: A Comparison Between the UK and US
- Green and Sustainable Governance
- On Intellectual Horror and Semiosis: Reading the Genotext into the film *Solaris*
- The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Migrants in the UK
- Defining Crime in Mid-Nineteenth Century British Society
- Narrating Fleabag
- Creative Industries in Liverpool: Arts Entrepreneurship and Economic Development since 2007



# Alumni

**Sam McIntosh has continued to engage with Alumni and keep them informed about relevant events and job opportunities both on an ad hoc basis through the alumni email list and through our yearly Alumni Newsletter.**

If any readers know of relevant job opportunities for our MA British Studies students and alumni, please do let Sam know and he will circulate them on the alumni email list.

If there are alumni reading this who are not on the email list and would like to be, please just drop Sam a line on [sam.mcintosh@hu-berlin.de](mailto:sam.mcintosh@hu-berlin.de).

Finally, we would also like to thank those alumni who completed the alumni survey last year. It was very helpful to be able to give our Advisory Board up-to-date information on what our students have gone on to do after their studies here. Please do continue to let us know, as many of you do, of important life events, new jobs or achievements or any other news, because it is always great to hear from you. Such information will of course be treated confidentially unless you have explicitly agreed to us sharing it.

## What happened to ...

### INA SOWADA-SONNENSTUHL

**Class 2001-2003**

After my graduation in 2003 I started work at the Coca-Cola Company in Berlin. As my other background is business administration this was a good opportunity for me to start my career. I began in marketing and went on to market research where I have been working these last years. Due to my MBS background I was lucky to be able to work in different Coca-Cola offices (London, Paris, Brussels) – an experience which I happily embraced. Through my Master in British Studies I had the chance to see different cultures through different point of views, which helped me in my professional life at Coca-Cola as well as my private life. However, after 15 years I decided to leave the company and am now looking to pursue some other career paths. I am searching for an opportunity to even more combine the MBS with the business side, ideally in a position that focuses more on culture and languages. I am grateful for my time at the Centre as it helped to broaden my horizon and might now lead to different opportunities!

### SONJA PYYKKÖ Class 2015-2017

When I began my studies in Berlin, I had no intention of pursuing a doctorate, but the support and encouragement that I received while a student at the GBZ – I especially have Gesa Stedman to thank for this – changed my mind. After submitting my M.A. thesis, I applied for a Humboldt Research Track Scholarship for transitioning into doctoral studies and used the 6-month scholarship period to prepare a research proposal. After talking to Ulla Hasselstein at Freie Universität's John F. Kennedy Institute, I decided to apply for a position in the Institute's graduate school and was admitted with a full scholarship. I always considered myself a student of literature, so the shift from British to American studies did not seem very drastic. It's now the third and final year of my doctoral training and I'm preparing to submit my dissertation on the poetics of confession in the postmodern novel by the end of the year. Despite the pandemic, I managed to cram in some international experience by spending most of my final year as a visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York. One benefit of virtual learning has been that I've been able to continue working with my BUA-funded X-Student Research Group, including current GBZ students, across the Atlantic. We're currently arranging a symposium on 'Confession in Contemporary Literature and Culture', set to take place next July, which should be a nice change after a few years of mostly virtual events. I'm excited to see what comes after the PhD, whether it's a postdoctoral research project or something a little more creative.



## The Centre's Staff Teaching at other Faculties

### LECTURES: EUROPEAN CONTRACT LAW

Professor Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter terms 2020/2021 and 2021/22. The lectures treat core issues of contract law from a comparative perspective with particular reference to EU, English, German and French law.

# Research Conferences and Workshops

## (Re)Thinking Diversity in Publishing: British and German Publishing Professionals in Conversation

### WORKSHOP

26 April

Following their research on the current state of the UK publishing world, Dr Anamik Saha and Dr Sandra van Lente (Goldsmith College) organised a workshop on diversity in the German and British literary fields, together with Prof Gesa Stedman. Due to the pandemic, it was postponed to 2021 and took place online but was hosted by the Centre. Panels combining academics and practitioners, publishers and agents, writers, translators, and booksellers discussed this pressing question which has seen little progress in real terms. While Germany's publishing sector has taken a little longer to embrace the fact that it needs to expand and change to become more inclusive, the British literary field ought to have realised the wealth of talent already available – but is almost as slow to transform itself. The report published by Anamik Saha and Sandra van Lente highlights the areas of action but also points to further research opportunities, which were also discussed during the workshop. Comparing both literary fields was particularly interesting, not least the impact that bottom-up initiatives have to open up seemingly immobile and conservative institutions.



Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

# Immigration Law and Policy, Border Control and Migrant Deaths

### CONFERENCE

30 September – 1 October

This conference was held as part of the project *Refugees Lives Matter: Protecting the human rights of migrants and refugees through international and regional obligations to investigate deaths*, which was generously funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung. It was postponed for a year, in the hope that the pandemic situation would improve enough for it to be held as an in-person event. Unfortunately, continuing uncertainty about how the public health situation was developing meant that when the time came to make a decision we had to go with an online only event. This was very disappointing but holding the event online did come with some advantages, including having speakers contributing from four different continents and audience members tuning in from all over the world. We were very lucky to have a fantastic programme of speakers, which included well established senior researchers on both refugee law and policy and contentious death investigation as well as a good number of early career researchers who are conducting very important research in related areas. The conference was split thematically over the two days, with the first concentrating on refugee law and policy, immigration detention, and



MA British Studies alumna Maja Grundler (middle) chairs a panel on 'Regional Implementation of International Policies and Law'

migrant and refugee vulnerability. The second day of the conference turned to contemporary issues in contentious death investigation generally and migrant and refugee deaths in particular. As well as academics, the conference included papers by NGO workers and a practicing lawyer who gave very moving presentations on the realities of the aftermath of deaths for families and survivors. Finally, as part of the conference, we also had a workshop for early career researchers called “Researching for Change: Having an Impact on Policy and Practice”. Our speaker provided practical advice on ways to ensure that important research reaches beyond an academic readership and to those who are in a position to affect real-world change in particular.

## Affective Polarisation

### WORKSHOP 29 October

The editors and authors of the co-authored book entitled “Affective Polarisation – Social, Economic and Cultural Divisions in the UK After Brexit and Covid-19” (Bristol University Press) met virtually for the first time on 29 October 2021 to discuss key terms and exchange views on draft chapters. Ranging across disciplines from ethnography, cultural studies, the social sciences and history to economics, contributors presented their arguments and responded to one another’s suggestions. It quickly became clear that all contributors share an interest in aiming for a deeper understanding of such seemingly simple terms as “affect”, “polarisation”, “the Left-Behind”, “Scotland” or “populism”. The book is intended to explain what is currently happening in Britain, but also to place these events in a historical perspective and therefore show how decisions in the past are having an impact now. The different disciplines guarantee a wide array of methods, both quantitative and qualitative. This methodological variety, the interdisciplinary approach, and the fact that the chapter authors are affiliated to different research cultures both in the UK and in Europe are the key features of this collective work in progress, which is edited by Prof Gesa Stedman and Prof Jana Gohrisch (Leibniz-Universität Hanover).

## Oxford-Berlin Partnership

Our Oxford-Berlin activities reached a new level in 2021. The annual Oxford-Berlin lecture was given by Prof Birke Häcker (Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford) who co-edits the Oxford University Comparative Law Forum with Prof Dannemann.



The opening of the exhibition at the Literaturhaus took place open-air with a limited number of guests; photo: Literaturhaus

The largest Oxford-Berlin project to date, led by Prof Gesa Stedman and Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford), “Happy in Berlin? English Authors in the City, the 1920s and Beyond”, was a great success and has led to numerous further activities (see *Spotlight* on page 32).

In November 2021, Stefano Evangelista and Gesa Stedman gave a talk at the LiedFest Berlin Oxford, concentrating

on the music that Britons in Berlin heard and wrote about. It took place at the Kühlhaus in Berlin Schöneberg and the music was performed by music students and professors from UdK and Oxford. Parts of the concert series were transmitted by Deutschlandfunk, who were one of the partners of the event (<https://www.liedfest.com/>).

Prof Anita Traninger (FU), a former Oxford-Berlin Lecture guest at the Centre, is the Berlin member of the Academic Liaison Committee for the humanities within Oxford-Berlin. She invited Gesa Stedman to join a wider consultation body on humanities interests within Oxford-Berlin and a first meeting of this body took place in November 2021.

**In 2022, the annual Oxford-Berlin lecture will be held by Professor Santanu Das (All Souls College, Oxford) and “Happy in Berlin” will address school pupils in Oxford and Berlin with numerous activities. We are also pleased to announce that the Centre is currently preparing an application for an Oxford-Berlin Einstein Visiting Fellowship with Prof Evangelista which would further strengthen the exchange between the English faculty at Oxford and the GBZ.**

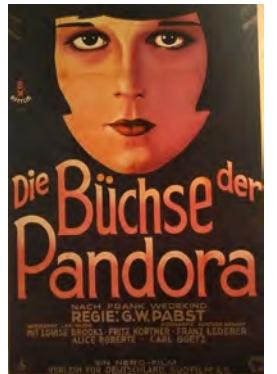


# Spotlight

## Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond

To date, this has been the largest Oxford-Berlin project undertaken by the Centre. Prof Stefano Evangelista and Prof Gesa Stedman embarked on this audience-facing undertaking with the help of funding from Oxford-Berlin, the John Fell Fund at Oxford, the AHRC, and knowledge exchange fellowships supplied by TORCH and Open Humboldt respectively.

Together with Literaturhaus Berlin, the Bodleian Library and the events and exhibitions team at HU, Stefano Evangelista and Gesa Stedman set up a three-part exhibition which was shown in three different venues throughout the summer of 2021. The accompanying bilingual book was co-authored by a team of Berlin- and UK-based experts in the field (Wallstein Verlag Göttingen). The chapters range from exploring how the Berlin myth was created by Christopher Isherwood and his friends, to women writers whose work in Berlin deserves to be known better, to links between Weimar cinema, avantgarde film-making and psychoanalysis in England.



Silent drama film poster: *Pandora's Box*, 1929

The three exhibitions each focused on different aspects. The Literaturhaus featured cinema and literary writers in particular. At the Bodleian Library, the Stephen Spender collection was the main attraction, including Spender's Berlin housekeeping book, whereas the exhibition at HU's Grimm-Zentrum concentrated on psychoanalysis, politics, and pleasure. The online opening at HU featured the new British



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SCHÖNEBERG

ambassador, Jill Gallard, the then president of HU, Prof Sabine Kunst, and some of the catalogue authors as well as HU colleagues. Sadly, it was also one of the last public appearances of Prof Laura Marcus, chapter author and hugely supportive colleague from Oxford who passed away suddenly in the late summer of 2021. A series of readings and events took place at Literaturhaus during the summer, and school workshops in Berlin and in Oxford made the material available to older school pupils.

Apart from the exhibitions and the book, Gesa Stedman also produced a five-part podcast about the exhibition and Britons in Berlin then and now, with the help of Sofia Permiakova and Anisia Petcu who co-wrote and produced it. Catalogue authors, historians, and other experts can be heard in interviews on the podcast, and each episode focuses on places such as the British Embassy, the Berlin Psychoanalytical Institute, or the cabarets which were important for Britons in Berlin in the Weimar period. The last episode explores artists and writers who still find Berlin inspiring, and includes a specially-written piece by writer and academic Patricia Duncker, who also wrote the afterword for the book *Happy in Berlin*.

Finally, the project sports a website ([www.happy-in-berlin.org](http://www.happy-in-berlin.org)) which is a work-in-progress, allowing Stefano Evangelista and Gesa Stedman to continue uploading authors, places, images, and worksheets for school pupils as the project continues to grow. At the time of writing, the HU exhibition is being turned into a travelling exhibition, incorporating elements of both the Literaturhaus and the Bodleian exhibitions, in order to make the material available to audiences in Britain and elsewhere.



From left: Evelyn, Countess Blücher; W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood and Stephen Spender; a Berlin Kaffeehaus around 1920



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# Spotlight FA Mann Project

2021 was the second year (of three) for the FA Mann Project, led by Professor Gerhard Dannemann and Dr Jason Allen. Readers may remember from the previous Annual Reports that in 2014, Anne Kriken Mann donated to the Humboldt-Universität some 10,000 personal documents relating to FA Mann, an alumnus and former academic staff member of Humboldt-Universität's law faculty, who, together with his colleague and wife Lore Mann (née Ehrlich) fled racial persecution in Germany in 1933 and went on to become one of the best known legal practitioners and scholars of his age.

The second annual Project Workshop was held in June, hosted by our institutional co-operation partner, the Max Planck Institute for Legal Theory and Legal History in Frankfurt. Unfortunately, this workshop (like the first) was held in a purely online format in light of the continuing travel and social distancing restrictions. A smaller workshop, in hybrid format, was held immediately following the annual FA Mann Lecture in London in November. This workshop was hosted by our other institutional cooperation partner, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. Together, these two events rounded off the research phase of the Project and brought our team to the cusp of "writing up" the three written outputs of the Project: (i) an edited collection with chapters by invited project members covering all aspects of Mann's impressive impact on the law; (ii) a doctoral dissertation by Christoph König, and; (iii) a monograph on the law of money by Jason Allen.

Project meetings have so far mostly been carried out online, but we are placing much hope on the final conference at the Centre's premises, slated for September 2022, and the chance to present final research findings to a broader live audience.

The edited collection comprises a selection of some 20 chapters by project members, including senior members of the legal profession and judiciary as well as established and emerging scholars in the UK, Germany, and indeed around the world. Given Mann's prodigious output and extraordinary breadth as a scholar and practitioner, a team

effort is necessary to do justice to his impact on the development of the law in the 20th century. Divided into three parts, the edited collection aims to present a comprehensive, critical engagement with his oeuvre that makes a substantive contribution to knowledge notably in monetary law, public international law and private international law and draws on insights from his biography and network.

Christoph König's doctoral dissertation is a biographical work that aims to make special use of the literary remains of FA Mann that reside in the archives of Humboldt-Universität. The idea is to contextualise his correspondence with his professional network, his legal practice, and his publications. The ultimate goal is to derive a hypothesis of why his work found echo – good and bad – the way it did in the different legal systems he worked in. Jason Allen's monograph presents an in-depth treatment of the law of money that takes Mann's classical exposition of the legal concept of money as its departure point. By way of a critical engagement with Mann, Allen's book explores the conceptual and practical challenges raised by current trends in digitalisation and the "dematerialisation" of the objects used to represent monetary units.

Letter written by FA Mann

Biller - Job, one of Walter Schmitz', assistants, and his good friend. It was quite interesting for me, because by talking to Gorans I always leave something. It is one of the serious drawbacks of this outfit that the English are completely absent and for me my contact with Gorans - It is India all over again and I have to be very careful not to get into position in which the two in "a passage to India" found himself.

To-day Wednesday was back. I am going to do the law before Committee to-morrow, and if I am allowed to continue this work (and to take the chair in September) I shall not complain too much.

# Spotlight

## The British Aristocracy and the Modern World

A ONE-DAY ONLINE COLLOQUIUM

Convenors Miles Taylor (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Christopher Ridgway (Castle Howard)

19 November 2021

In this online workshop over 80 guests registered to take part in a workshop of internationally distinguished participants speaking about The British Aristocracy and the Modern World.

In the thirty years since the publication of David Cannadine's *Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy* the landed elite of Britain may have witnessed changes to their political and economic power but they remain far from extinct. In 1999 Tony Blair's Labour government banished all but 92 hereditary peers from the House of Lords, and since the turn of the millennium a new financial super-class has emerged in the UK and elsewhere, their fortunes derived from commerce and digital technology, and not the land. Yet, the legacy of the aristocracy endures. One-third of Britain's land still belongs to the aristocracy. Around the world, as French economist Thomas Piketty has revealed, the dynastic rich list has emerged stronger than ever since 2000.

Moreover, partly inspired by Cannadine's book, we now know much more about the ways in which the aristocracy established their hold on modernity, and how they have lasted so long. The slave trade, empire and networking through marriage and patronage, it has been shown, all played a part in the rise of the landed elite, and successful lobbying of the Treasury and partnerships with the heritage and tourist industries, as well as careful management of estates, have softened its decline.

Many key questions remain however. How much was this a distinctively British story, to what extent were things different in Scotland and Ireland? Does "decline and fall" accurately describe what happened to landed elites in other countries, particularly in western Europe? Was the 'soft' power of the aristocracy – their role in the arts, philanthropy and higher education – as significant as their political and economic sway? This online workshop brought together a wide-ranging group of scholars to explore The Decline and Fall after three decades, whilst developing its themes in new ways, and investigating other aspects for the first time.

Speakers included: Stephanie Barczewski (Clemson University); David Cannadine (Princeton University); Ben Cowell (Historic Houses UK); Katie Donington (Open University); Terence Dooley (Maynooth University); Max Egremont (Petworth House); Ewald Frie (Tübingen University); Abigail Green (Oxford University); Martha Groppo (Princeton University); Angma Dey Jhala (Bentley University); Daniel Menning (Tübingen University); Elena Porter (Oxford University); Marcus Roberts (J-Trails); Annie Tindley (University of Newcastle).



## The British Aristocracy and the Modern World

A one-day online colloquium

Friday 19 November 2021, 12.00-18.00 (Central European Time)

Hosted by the Centre for British Studies/Großbritannien-Zentrum, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Convenors  
Miles Taylor (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Christopher Ridgway (Castle Howard)

# Current Research Projects

## PROF DR GERHARD DANNEMANN

### F.A. Mann (1907-1991)

See *Spotlight* on page 34.

### German Civil Code

Together with Professor Reiner Schulze, University of Münster, Professor Dannemann is co-editing the first English language commentary on the German Civil Code. The first volume, which covers Books 1-3 (General Part, Obligations, Property), was published in August 2020. The second volume, which will cover Books 4-5 (Family Law, Succession) is due to appear in 2022.

### Academic Misconduct

Professor Dannemann is an active contributor and administrator of VroniPlag Wiki, which documents cases of plagiarism in doctoral theses. He gave numerous interviews on plagiarism and appeared on various TV and radio programmes.

### Further Activities

#### Conference Papers and Lectures

“Accidental Discrimination in the Conflict of Laws: Weird Things May Happen If You Get Caught Between Legal Systems”, Middle Temple Qualifying Sessions, 4 and 16 February \* “Short Term Rental Platforms”, European Law Institute Webinar ‘ELI at 10: EU Platform Regulation Beyond the Digital Services Act Package – What is the Role of ELI?’, 8 June \* “Plagiate in der Wissenschaft: Welche Erscheinungsformen, Anreize und Gefahren gibt es, wie erkennt und verhindert man Plagiate?” University of Leipzig, 28 October, as first in a series of lectures on good academic practice \* “ELI Model Rules for Online Platforms”, Hungarian Academy of Justice, Autumn 2021 training of the European Law Advisors’ Network, 23 November

#### Other Conference Attendances

Co-chaired two workshops as part of the F.A. Mann research project, 10-11 June (co-organised with the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Frankfurt) and 19 November (co-organised with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London) \* Attended the 71st Königswinter British-German Conference, 17-18 June \* Co-chaired a conference on the

‘Prevention of Money Laundering in Notarial Practice’, Institute for Notary Law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 25 November

### Parliamentary Hearings

In 2021, Professor Dannemann appeared twice before the Berlin Parliament Committee for Science and Research, and once before the Committee for Federal and European matters.

## PROF DR CHRISTIANE EISENBERG

Professor Eisenberg gave several online lectures at various academic events, including a ceremonial address on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the *Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung* (German Association for British Studies) on 16 June. As a contribution to the Nordic Civic Societies Colloquium, organised by the Department for Archaeology, Conservation and History at the University of Oslo, she gave a lecture on “The British Model as a Tool for Historical Analysis” on 7 June. Professor Eisenberg has also been pushing ahead with her manuscript on the “Sporting Spirit of Capitalism”, returning to full speed with this after her retirement on 30 September 2021.

## PROF DR GESA STEDMAN

Professor Stedman’s collective project focusing on European exchange in the wake of World War I was published by the *Journal for European Studies* in November 2021, with Philipp Bullock (Oxford) and Sofia Permiakova (GBZ) as co-editors, and numerous members of the *Writing 1900* network as contributors. Supported by a teaching-buy out as part of the Open Humboldt Freiräume funding line, she continued her research on Anglophone visitors to Berlin in the late 19th and early 20th century, which culminated in the three-part Oxford Berlin exhibition, book, podcast, and website entitled *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond*, co-edited and co-curated with Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford). Currently, the project website is being updated with teaching material for secondary schoolchildren and the exhibition is being turned into a

L'Armistice à Paris , 17 Nov 1918, La contemporaine. Bibliothèque, archives, musée des mondes contemporains



travelling exhibition (see *Spotlight* on page 32 and [www.happy-in-berlin.org](http://www.happy-in-berlin.org)) Gesa Stedman also continued to write reviews and blog articles on current literary events for The Literary Field Kaleidoscope. Together with Prof Jana Gohrisch (Leibniz-Universität Hannover), she is co-editing a volume entitled “Affective Polarisation – Social, Cultural, and Economic Divisions in the UK after Brexit and COVID-19” which will be published by Bristol University Press in 2023. Contributors include members of the Berlin Britain Research Network and staff and former staff of the Centre. In a return to the 17th century and Anglo-French relations of that period, she has also published an article on Bossuet’s funeral orations for Queen Henrietta Maria and Princess Henrietta Anne, the French Catholic wife of Charles I and their daughter.

### **PROF DR MILES TAYLOR**

Professor Taylor is currently completing a book on parliamentary representation in the UK since the 18th century. This is a revisionist survey of the working of democracy in Britain, written partly in the context of Brexit. He is also completing a funded collaborative project on ‘Salt, protest and public health in India’, which uses the 90th anniversary of Gandhi’s Salt March of 1930 to investigate the health and societal impact of state control of the salt industry in India both under the British and since independence in 1947 (for more details see: <https://www.saltindiahistory.com>). Here, he also took part in a seminar on ‘Salt technologies in India past and present’, organised by the Human Sciences Research Group at the India Institute for Information Technology in Hyderabad, India, on 6 October 2021. He furthermore chaired a ‘History of Universities’ online seminar on 3 November and organised and chaired the online conference ‘The British Aristocracy and the Modern World’ at the Centre on 19 November (see *Spotlight* on page 36).

### **PROF DR JÜRGEN SCHLAEGER, CBE**

Professor Schlaeger is still working on his long-term project “Selves in Transit” which is part of Humboldt-Universität’s Future Concept funded by the Excellence Initiative and is designed to reconstruct the main forces and parameters in the development of life-writing in English culture from the late 15th to the 21st century. Based on a broad range of sources from libraries in Oxford, Cambridge, and London, the book will analyse the most significant changes in expressing and constructing selves and re-evaluate them in the light of present-day self-perceptions under the influence of social media. He

is also co-author of a book on the significance of ‘deep learning’ (Bildung) and the relationship between research-based teaching and the specific cognitive imprint it produces. This book *Bildung durch Wissenschaft. Vom Nutzen forschenden Lernens* was published in 2020. An article on “Do we need a Eudaimonic Turn in Literary Studies” is included in a collection of essays on *The Value of Literature* edited by Ansgar and Vera Nünning (*REAL* 36, 2021). Jürgen Schlaeger’s contribution discusses what a narrowing down of literary studies to well-being could result in – not only in the teaching of literature, but also in the status of our discipline in the academy.

### **DR JASON ALLEN, LLM**

2021 was an eventful year for Jason with a number of multi-year research projects coming to a successful close in three book-length titles: (i) *Non-Statutory Executive Powers and Judicial Review* (CUP, forthcoming 2022) will be the first to explore the subject matter in depth in English law; (ii) *Smart Legal Contracts: Computable Law in Theory and Practice* (co-edited with Peter Hunn, OUP, forthcoming 2022) is the first in-depth, interdisciplinary treatment of an important current trend; (iii) *Things: The Foundations of Property Law* (a translation of Christian von Bar’s seminal treatise *Gemeineuropäisches Sachenrecht*) renders a wealth of comparative and conceptual research accessible to the Anglophone world. In terms of journal articles, Jason published (with Will Bateman) “The Law of Central Bank Reserve Creation” in the *Modern Law Review* and “Bodies Without Organs: Law, Economics, and Decentralised Governance” in the *Stanford Journal of Blockchain Law & Policy*.

### **DR MARIUS GUDEJAN**

Throughout 2021 Marius was working towards finalising his habilitation thesis on intergovernmental relations in the UK, for which he completed all draft chapters. His joint monograph *Local Government in the European Union: Completing the Integration Cycle?* was published by Palgrave Macmillan. Together with Klaus Stolz, he hosted the panel ‘Das politische System Großbritanniens in Zeiten von Unsicherheit und Autokratisierung’ at the 28th annual conference of the German Political Science Association. Marius was also invited to speak on British-German relations at the conference ‘Unions, Break-ups and Special Relationships – Aspects of the Irish-German-UK Relationships’ organised by the Centre for Irish-German Studies at Limerick University, as well as on the panel ‘Four Nations in a United Kingdom? The Case of Wales’ by the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft.

## **DR SAM MCINTOSH**

This year, Sam has been finalising his book “Protecting Life by Investigating Death: Obligations on European States to Investigate the Deaths of Migrants and Refugees” (title subject to change). This is currently with copy editors and is due to be published in March-April 2022 as part of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Grund- und Menschenrechte’s book series *Menschen.Recht!*, in partnership with Manz Verlag. Funding from the Volkswagen Foundation means that the online version of the book can be published open access. The book is the outcome of Sam’s research project ‘Refugees Lives Matter: Protecting the human rights of migrants and refugees through international and regional obligations to investigate deaths’. This was funded by a research grant from the Volkswagen Foundation under the highly competitive *Original Isn’t it?* funding line, ‘Komm! ins Offene...’. As well as writing the book, Sam also held a two-day international conference at the end of September 2021 that explored a number of the topics associated with his research project. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the conference had to be held online in the end, but, on the plus side, this did mean that people were able to attend who may not otherwise have been able to. Despite having to be held online, the conference proved to be a very successful exchange of knowledge and ideas over two days of presentations and a workshop, with 160 registered participants. Sam also continues to plan a related research project with a number of international partners at other European institutions. While the recently completed project and resulting book explores international and regional obligations on European States to investigate the deaths of unsettled migrants and refugees, the next project will explore State practice and the extent to which it conforms with these legal obligations.

## **CHRISTOPH KÖNIG**

Christoph continued his DFG-funded doctoral project on F.A. Mann in 2021. His thesis now has the working title “F.A. Mann (1907–1991) – zwei doppelte Leben im Recht / two double lives in the law” and is envisioned as a biography with a special focus on contextualising the extensive literary estate that resides at the Humboldt Archive. Due to the continuation of the pandemic his research has been complicated. In May he – digitally – presented as a speaker at the University of Jerusalem’s conference on “A Lost World?” Jewish International Lawyers and New World Orders (1917–1951) with a talk on “The well-intentioned surveying of Jews”. In June he gave one of the keynotes at the Global Alliance for Justice Education’s conference on “Rebellious Lawyering”.

He has been holding digital and physical lectures in German property law and company and corporation law at the universities of Breslau, Erfurt and BSP Business and Law School.

## **FELICIA KOMPIÓ**

Felicia continued to work on her PhD thesis on practices of political participation in an urban setting in early 19th century Europe. She looks at revolutionary events in three cities around 1830 in order to gain insight into changing practices, their perceptions and both the local and European discourse accompanying this process. Her PhD project focusses on the relation between practices and space, combining microhistorical case studies with a European perspective. It is supervised by Prof Thomas Mergel (Department of History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Prof Christiane Eisenberg (former Chair History and Society, Centre for British Studies).

## **SOFIA PERMIAKOVA**

Sonya is currently working on the final draft of her PhD thesis on “British women’s poetry of the First and the Second World Wars”, which she expects to submit in the summer semester 2022. In June 2021, Sonya’s article “From 1920s to 2020s: The Myth of Weimar Berlin in Contemporary British Art, Music and Literature” was published in the exhibition catalogue *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond*, co-edited by Prof Gesa Stedman and Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) for their exhibition focusing on British writers in Berlin in the first half of the 20th century. In June, Sonya took part in the *Humboldt Tag der Lehre* (Teaching Day), as one of this year’s finalists of the *Humboldt Preis für Gute Lehre*. Sonya was nominated by the students for her digital teaching methods in ‘Literary Films and Cinematic Novels’ course. In September, Sonya took part in the *Anglistentag*, the annual conference of the *Anglistenverband* (German Association for the Study of English), which this year took place online. She presented a paper on poetry, commemoration and participation culture, which is likely to be followed up by a publication in 2022. In November 2021, the special issue for the *Journal of European Studies* was published after almost three years of work. Sonya co-edited the issue, entitled “The First World War and its Aftermath: Literary Networks and Cultural Encounters”, together with Prof Philip Bullock (Oxford) and Prof Gesa Stedman. Her article on Hope Mirrlees, an under-researched modernist poet, was published as part of the special issue.

## JOHANNA ZINECKER

After returning from parental leave, Johanna continued to work on her research project on artistic production on mental health and madness in the UK context, utilising approaches from across the Critical Medical Humanities, Disability and Cultural Studies. She regularly participates in research activities, conferences and workshops in this field. Her interests also include queer culture, diversity politics and inclusion. She took part in the conference 'Diverse Families: Parenthood and Family/s beyond Heteronormativity and Binary Gender' at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in October.



## Visiting Researcher

### PROF DR PATRICIA SPRINGBORG

Emerita Professor of Political Science from the University of Sydney and from the School of Economics, Free University of Bolzano. Due to the Corona-virus, Patricia Springborg did not attend any conferences in this academic year. She will continue to participate with Dr Jason Allen on a joint project on 'Sovereignty and the Jurisprudence of Office', which we foresee will produce a future conference. Her current publications on Constitutionalism and on 'the artificial person of the state' are preparatory for the project. She also produced three commissioned pieces that are related to her book project "Hobbes, the Papal Monarchy and Islam", which is in its early stages.

### PROF DR KLAUS NATHAUS

Klaus Nathaus, Professor of Contemporary Western History at the University of Oslo, was a visiting researcher attached to Professor Eisenberg's chair. He had planned to visit Berlin during the winter semester 2020/21 to work on the project 'How much more than a Job? Rethinking Creative Labour in the Cultural Industries'. Due to Covid, however, he had to cancel his trip, but gave a lecture on "Globalisation of Music" within the framework of the MA British Studies seminar 'British Sport and the Media'. It provided the participants with a comparative case to the causes, concomitants and effects of the globalisation of sport discussed beforehand in the course, but also offered a fascinating topic for anyone else interested in music history.

### ROBERT YEE

Robert Yee is a PhD candidate in history at Princeton University and is visiting the Centre from December 2021 until April 2022. He studies the economic and financial history of modern Britain and Germany. His dissertation examines the history of central banks and financial-sector regulation in the interwar years, specifically focusing on the role of economic advisers in shaping policy. In addition to his research, Robert is the Co-Coordinator of the Economic History Workshop at Princeton University and a Graduate Associate of the Jülis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy and Finance. While in Berlin, he plans to consult archival research at the Bundesarchiv and Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amts. His research is supported by a DAAD research grant.

# Doctoral Students

## CULTURE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

### Supervision by Prof Gesa Stedman, unless otherwise stated

- Jennifer Jacob: "Between Independence and Interference: A Comparative Study of Funding Agencies as Intermediaries Between Politics and Science in the UK and Germany". Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann and Prof Schlaeger.
- Sofia Permiakova: "Women on War, War on Women: British Women's Poetry of the First and the Second World Wars in the Context of Contemporary Commemorative Culture – Exclusion, Reception and Re-conceptualization".
- Judith Robinson: "Literature Festivals in the UK: A Field Study."
- Tathagata Sarkar: "Peaceful Protest in a Democracy: A Comparative Study of the Legislative and Police Response of the Democratic Governments of India and the UK and its Effect on the Right to Assemble and Expression". Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann.
- Anna Schoon: submitted her thesis on "European Literature in the Context of European Cultural Policy – The European Union Prize for Literature in the UK, Ireland, and Germany". Co-supervised by Prof Schlaeger.
- Johanna Zinecker: "Entanglements of Artistic Practice and Mental Health in the UK". Joint PhD in English Research with King's College, London, co-supervised by Prof Eveline Kilian (English Department, HU Berlin) and Prof Brian Hurwitz (KCL).

## LAW DEPARTMENT

### Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann

- Petrit Elshani: is writing a PhD thesis on "State Liability in ICSID Case Law: Grounds of Justification".
- Arne Gutsche: successfully defended his PhD thesis on "Conceptions of contract as a question of national identity".

- Christoph König: is writing a PhD thesis on "F.A. Mann (1909-1991)".
- Kevin Schmauß: is writing a PhD thesis on "Rechtsvergleichende Betrachtung der Richterauswahl für das Bundesverfassungsgericht der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und dem Supreme Court des Vereinigten Königreiches von Großbritannien und Nordirland".
- Ian Smith: is writing a PhD thesis on "Access to Financial Justice for Victims of Commercial Fraud".
- Tetjana Trachuk: is writing a PhD thesis on "Smart Contracts: Challenges of Effective Implementation from a Comparative Perspective with a Focus on Germany, Ukraine, England, and the United States of America".

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

### Supervision by Prof Christiane Eisenberg

- Felicia Kompio: "Revolution of the street. Practices of Political Participation, c. 1830." Co-supervised by Prof Thomas Mergel (History Department, HU Berlin).
- Florian Pauls: "A Cultural Exchange? The British Forces in Berlin and their Relationship to their German Neighbours".
- Stephan Schwanke: "Endless Leisure? Australian Surf Culture from 1945 Onwards".
- Dr Reet Tamme, former GBZ staff member and examined by Prof G. Metzler and Prof Eisenberg, received the 2021 AGF Prize for the best dissertation dealing with her thesis on: *Wissenschaft und race relations. Repräsentationen von Multiethnizität in Großbritannien von den 1950er bis zum Ende der 1970er Jahre*. Congratulations!

## PHD THESIS DEFENCE

Arne Gutsche defended his PhD thesis “European Contract Law and Narratives of National Identity” on 26 November 2021. The dissertation was supervised by Prof Gerhard Dannemann and was concerned with the historic development of Contract law within the EU and the effect of different national conceptions of contract. The thesis combined legal and cultural studies in an interdisciplinary approach. The viva was supervised by Prof Alexander Blankenagel, Prof Gerhard Dannemann and Prof Stefan Grundmann and consisted of a 20-minute-presentation and 40 minutes of questions by the panel. It took place at the law faculty of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Arne defended his PhD thesis, unfortunately without an audience, as would be usual in these cases. However, a small circle of family and friends were allowed to his modest pandemic-styled party afterwards.



## Graduate School of British Studies

Our doctoral students have been working hard in order to finish their respective projects – be it fully-fledged proposals from the new and prospective members, or actually finalising their thesis manuscripts for those who have been with us for longer already. Arne Gutsche successfully defended his thesis entitled “Conceptions of Contract as a Question of National Identity” in November 2021. Anna Schoon handed in her PhD thesis entitled “European Literature and the EU: New Questions about European Literature, New Challenges for Literary Research. An Analysis of the European Union Prize for Literature” in December, and will defend it in 2022. Our new member, alumna of the Centre and lecturer at Bath Spa University, Judith Robinson, produced a full-length proposal and has begun to research and write about literary festivals in the UK. Chiara Harrison Lambe, another MA British Studies alumna, presented her research on the only Irish student at the Bauhaus, Stella Steyn, at the Postgraduate Forum of the annual BritCult conference in 2021, continues to work on her almost-finished proposal and will hopefully join the Graduate School as a full member in 2022.

Individual coaching complemented our group workshops, as the Graduate School’s members are all at very different stages of their research now and profit most from tailor-made advice. But we have acquired a new contact whose positive hands-on approach to writing we share, Ingrid Scherübel and Katja Günther. We intend to incorporate their workshops into our programme for the coming year.

In 2022, we hope not only for further submissions of finished theses but also for a new intake of doctoral students, both from among the Centre’s alumni and from external applicants. In order to move the Graduate School to the next stage, the Centre is currently working on its own doctoral statutes, thus allowing interdisciplinary theses to be written and defended at the Centre, rather than at other faculties, which has proved to be not without difficulties in the past.

# Publications

## DANNEMANN, GERHARD

"Gute Wissenschaft braucht klare Regeln. Eine Entgegnung zu: Andreas Fisahn, Wahrheit und Fußnote – Wissenschaftliche Ehrlichkeit und der Plagiatspranger, NJW 2020, 743 – 747." *myops* 41 (2021): 62–70.

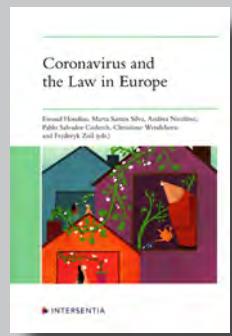
"Unerschwinglichkeit als Grenze der primären Leistungspflicht im BGB." *Selbstbestimmung: Freiheit und Grenzen. Festschrift für Reinhard Singer zum 70. Geburtstag*, ed. by Antje G.I. Tölle, Järg Benedict, Harald Koch, Stephan Klawitter, Christoph G. Paulus and Friedrich Preeetz, 2021, pp. 107–123.

"Digital Platforms and COVID-19." *Coronavirus and the Law in Europe. Examining coronavirus-related legislation and its consequences in European states*, ed. by Ewoud Hondius, Marta Santos Silva, Andrea Nicolussi, Pablo Salvador Coderch, Christiane Wendehorst and Fryderyk Zoll, *Intersentia* (2021): 867–89 (together with Christoph Busch and Hans Schulte-Nölke).

Review of *Judicial Law-Making in English and German Courts. Techniques and Limits of Statutory Interpretation*, by Martin Brenncke, Cambridge et al, 2018. *Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und Internationales Privatrecht* 85 (2021): 250–6.

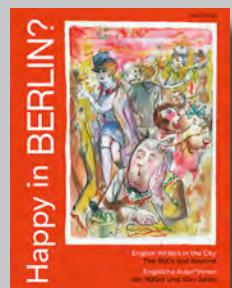
General Editor. *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum*. Online: <https://ouclf.law.ox.ac.uk/>.

General Editor. *German Law Archive*. Online: <https://germanlawarchive.iuscomp.org/>.



## SCHLAEGER, JÜRGEN

"Do We Need a Eudaimonic Turn in Literary Studies?", ed. by Ansgar Nünning and Vera Nünning, *REAL* 36 (2021): 339–58.



## STEDMAN, GESA

With Stefano Evangelista (eds.). *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond*. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2021.

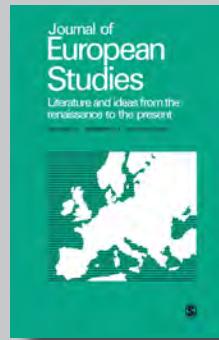
With Stefano Evangelista. "Happy in Berlin?" *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond*, pp. 15–52.

"English Women Writers in Berlin: From the Cage of Diplomacy to the Gestapo Prison." *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond*, pp. 95–119.

With Philip Bullock and Sofia Permiakova (eds.). *The First World War and its Aftermath: Literary Networks and Cultural Encounters. Special issue of The Journal of European Studies* 51.3–4 (2021).

With Philip Bullock and Sofia Permiakova. "Introduction." *The Journal of European Studies* 51.3–4 (2021): 184–91.

"Restoring Friendship and confidence as far as possible between the inimical nations'. Post-World War I Berlin Through English Eyes." *The*



*Journal of European Studies* 51.3–4 (2021): 239–51.

"On Cultural and Political Mediation. Bossuet's Oraisons funèbres for Queen Henrietta Maria and Princess Henrietta Anne." *Revue Bossuet. Littérature, Culture, Religion* 12 (Bossuet et l'Angleterre) (2021): 25–34.

With Sandra van Lente (eds). *Literary Field Kaleidoscope*. Online: [www.literaryfield.org](http://www.literaryfield.org).

With Stefano Evangelista (eds). *Happy in Berlin? Berlin Through English Eyes*. Online: [www.happy-in-berlin.org](http://www.happy-in-berlin.org).

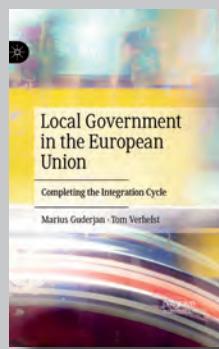
## TAYLOR, MILES

"Parliamentary representation in modern Britain: past, present, and future." *Historical Journal* (2021): 1–29.

## ALLEN, JASON

With Will Bateman. "The Law of Central Bank Reserve Creation." *Modern Law Review* (2021): online.

"Bodies Without Organs: Law, Economics, and Decentralised Governance." *Stanford Journal of Blockchain Law & Policy* (2021): online.



## GUDERJAN, MARIUS

With Tom Verhelst. *Local Government in the European Union: Completing the Integration Cycle*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

"Brexit." *Spicker Politik* Nr. 21. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 2021.

## PERMIAKOVA, SOFIA

With Gesa Stedman and Philip Bullock (eds.). *The First World War and its Aftermath: Literary Networks and Cultural Encounters. Special issue of The Journal of European Studies* 51.3–4 (2021).

With Gesa Stedman and Philip Bullock. "Introduction." *The Journal of European Studies* 51.3–4 (2021): 184–91.

"Paris: A Poem by Hope Mirrlees: The liminal world of Paris in 1919." *The Journal of European Studies* 51.3–4 (2021): 192–203.

"From the 1920s to the 2020s: The Myth of Weimar Berlin in Contemporary British Art, Music, and Literature." *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond*, ed. by Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 2021, pp. 193–213.

## SPRINGBORG, PATRICIA

"Raylor's Revisionist Humanist Hobbes". Review of *Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Thomas Hobbes*, by Timothy Raylor. *Global Intellectual History* 6.4 (2021): 524–57.

"Quentin Skinner and Hobbes's Artificial Person of the State Redux." Review of *From Humanism to Hobbes: Studies in Rhetoric and Politics*, by Quentin Skinner. *Global Intellectual History* 6.5 (2021): 732–78.

"Hobbes and the Papal Monarchy, A Neglected Subject." *Blackwell/Wiley Companion to Hobbes*, ed. by Marcus P. Adams. New York: Wiley, 2021, chapter 21, pp. 348–64.



# Library

The Centre's library is technically and logically linked to the main library of Humboldt-Universität and its holdings are incorporated in the general library catalogue and discovery system PRIMUS. It provides excellent working and research opportunities for students, researchers, and the general public.

The library's main areas of collection are those of the disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 36,000 volumes. An extensive range of electronic material is accessible via the discovery system PRIMUS.

The Centre's library is a modern research library that is continually expanding, thus offering the latest publications covering relevant subjects. This guarantees that the library presents a unique and excellent up-to-date opportunity for research in British Studies in Germany.

In 2021 library services were limited and extended depending on the pandemic situation at any given time. At the start of the winter semester, following the general policy of as much face-to-face teaching as possible, library services went back to normal, except, of course, 3G and mask-wearing. It was fantastic to see the library busy again. Still, the library went along with the decision of the university library and its branches not to offer on-site tours this year and presented the library to the new British Studies Master students online.

To supplement this, an on-site tour of the library using the App Actionbound was introduced in December. The so-called Bound contains information about the collections and services of the Foreign Languages / Literatures Branch Library / Centre for British Studies (Library) including tasks for the users, some specifically concerning the British studies collection.

**Please note that the Centre's library is situated in the August-Boeckh-Haus, Dorotheenstr. 65**

# Events

## Monday Lectures

The Centre continued its events and lecture series, drawing on its experience with curating hybrid, online and in-person events and thus reaching audiences outside Berlin, and indeed, Germany.

## A DECADE OF CENTENARIES: IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The following two lectures are a co-operation between the Centre for British Studies, the Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick, and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Ulster University. They continue our joint lecture series which first began in 2020.



## **AMONGST THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD: COMMEMORATING AND REIMAGINING THE FORMATION OF AN IRISH FOREIGN POLICY**

# DR MICHAEL KENNEDY

Executive Editor Documents on Irish Foreign Policy, Royal Irish Academy

18 January

The 2016 centenary of the execution of Roger Casement in 1916, and the 2019 centenary of the 1919 foundation of Ireland's diplomatic service link two landmark dates in the Irish revolution into the turbulent world of 100 years ago as the globe reformed during and after WWI. In his talk, Michael Kennedy examined commemoration in a wider context and looked at how Casement's legacy was explained and commemorated in 2016. How did the hopes of Ireland's first generation of revolutionary diplomats a century ago dovetail into the signature themes of today's Irish foreign policy?

Dr Michael Kennedy has written and published widely on modern Irish history, in particular on Irish military, diplomatic history and foreign policy. He has

been the executive editor of the RIA's *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy* series and Head of the DIFP series since 1997. Dr Kennedy appears regularly on television and radio discussing a wide range of aspects of Irish history.

# THE FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

## PROFESSOR JONATHAN TONGE

Department of Politics, University of Liverpool

8 February

Northern Ireland celebrated its centenary this year. Yet few people might be confident that it will enjoy a bi-centenary.

This lecture examined the prospects for a region which has emerged from decades of violent conflict into an uncertain political future. Northern Ireland faces a Brexit which some believe will align the country more closely to the rest of Ireland and the EU, beginning a process of economic detachment from the UK. Many among the growing percentage of Irish Nationalists within

Northern Ireland want a border poll on the region's future and desire a united Ireland. Can the pro-British Unionist population of Northern Ireland resist these pressures? The lecture assessed the state-of-play for British Unionists and Irish Nationalists.

Jon Tonge is Professor of Politics at the University of Liverpool. He was Head of School of Politics & Communication Studies from 2007 until 2010.



Population density of Ireland; picture: CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

## PUBLIC READING GLENN PATTERSON

Writer and Novelist

17 May

The Northern Irish writer Glenn Patterson is the author of ten novels, including *The International*, *The Mill for Grinding Old People Young and Gull*. He has published two collections of essays and articles – *Lapsed Protestant* and *Here's Me Here* – and two other non-fiction works, the most recent of which, *Backstop Land*, explores the consequences of Brexit for Northern Ireland. He is the co-writer, with Colin Carberry, of *Good Vibrations* (BBC Films), later adapted for stage, and in 2016 he wrote the libretto for *Long Story Short: the Belfast Opera*, composed by Neil Martin. His latest novel, *Where Are We Now?* was published in March 2020. He is the Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University Belfast.

This event was a cooperation between the Centre for British Studies, Bard College Berlin and Literary Field Kaleidoscope.



Glenn Patterson in an entertaining online reading

## HIGHLAND FLING: A SCOTTISH READING ADVENTURE PROFESSOR CLAIRE SQUIRES

Professor in Publishing Studies, Director, Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication, University of Stirling

5 July

This lecture detailed what happened when, in the depth of the second Covid-19 lockdown, Professor Squires began reading books, novellas and short stories all with the same title: Highland Fling. In choosing to repeatedly read books with the same title, Professor Squires took an autoethnographic adventure into aspects of 21st-century reading, (self-)publishing and bookselling practices, as well as addressing constructions and clichés of Scottishness within a series of texts and genres.

Claire Squires is Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of Stirling, and Director of the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities (SGSAH). She is the author of *Marketing Literature: The Making of Contemporary Writing in Britain* (Palgrave, 2007), and is co-editor of *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain Vol. 7: The Twentieth Century and Beyond* (CUP, 2019). With Beth Driscoll, she is co-founder of the Ullapoolism movement, and as Blaire Squiscoll, co-authored *The Frankfurt Kabuff* (Kabuff Books, 2019).

## MONEY, BOOKS, AND THE INTERPRETATION OF WILLS: THE CASE OF ALL SOULS COLLEGE V. CODRINGTON (1720) PROFESSOR BIRKE HÄCKER

Professor of Comparative Law, University of Oxford; Director, Institute of European and Comparative Law

12 July

This lecture traced the fascinating history behind the early 18th-century case of All Souls College v. Codrington. It involves a bequest which eventually led to the foundation of one of Oxford's most beautiful libraries. At the same time, the case raises an important point of testamentary interpretation – with a perhaps surprising twist. Should someone who leaves to a College "my Library of Books now in the Custody of [X]" be understood to mean only the books which s/he had at the time the will was made or also those which were acquired between the making of the will and the testator's death? To our modern eyes, it seems obvious that a "will speaks from death", yet this was not nearly as evident to lawyers at the time when the Codrington case was decided. The lecture explored from a historical and comparative perspective how the approach towards testamentary interpretation gradually evolved.

Birke Häcker is Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Oxford, Director of Oxford's Institute of European and Comparative Law, and a Professorial Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford. She was previously for many years a Fellow of All Souls College.

This lecture was a co-operation between the Centre, the European Law School, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Oxford-Berlin Partnership.

## CAN THE ANGLO-SCOTTISH UNION SURVIVE BREXIT?

### PROFESSOR MICHAEL KEATING

Professor of Scottish Politics, Aberdeen University

22 November

This lecture considered how Brexit was promoted as a way to "take back control" and restore sovereignty to the British Parliament and people, whilst assuming the "Westminster view" that the UK is a unitary, sovereign state and that sharing sovereignty is alien to it. Viewed from the periphery, the UK is a plurinational union without a clearly defined demos, telos or ethos. From that perspective it is a good fit with the EU, and the European framework has provided an essential support to the internal devolution settlement. Brexit is therefore profoundly destabilising.

Professor Keating has previously taught at universities in England, Scotland and Canada and at the European University Institute in Florence. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, British Academy, Academy of Social Sciences and Academia Europea. He has published widely on nationalism, regionalism and European politics. His latest book *State and Nation in the United Kingdom: The Fractured Union*, was published by OUP in 2021.



## PUBLIC READING OKECHUKWU NZELU

### Writer and Teacher

29 November

A late addition to our winter semester events was the Manchester-based writer and teacher, Okechukwu Nzelu, who read from his debut and latest novels to a captive online audience. In 2015 Okechukwu Nzelu was the recipient of a Northern Writers' Award from New Writing North. His debut novel, *The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney* (Dialogue Books/Little, Brown), won a Betty Trask Award; it was also shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Polari First Book Prize, and longlisted for the Portico Prize. In 2021, it was selected for the Kingston University Big Read. His second novel, *Here Again Now*, will be published in 2022. Okechukwu Nzelu is a regular contributor to *Kinfolk* magazine, and a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Lancaster University. This reading was a cooperation between the Literary Field Kaleidoscope, the Centre, and Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf.



## NORTHERN IRELAND AFTER BREXIT. BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

### PROFESSOR KATY HAYWARD

Professor of Political Sociology, Queen's University Belfast

6 December

The talk examined the position of Northern Ireland in the UK after Brexit by considering four different dimensions of change. The first was an assessment of the current pressures on the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, particularly in terms of British-Irish relations. The second examined what the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland means for the constitutional place in the UK and in the UK internal market. The third looked at the state of political unionism in Northern Ireland, in light of the flux experienced since the end of the transition period. And the fourth is that of public opinion, particularly as it has evolved since 2016.

Katy Hayward is Professor of Political Sociology at Queen's University Belfast and a Senior Fellow in the UK in a Changing Europe think-tank, where she leads a project on *The Future and Status of Northern Ireland after Brexit*.



# Visiting the Centre Advisory Board

The Centre's Advisory Board meeting took place online on 28 May 2021. In the meeting, the Centre reported on its recent research activities, on how the MA British Studies was being managed in a pandemic, with face-to-face, hybrid and online teaching, and on how staff and students were coping with the still unusual situation. Mental health problems were an issue and the Centre addressed this with helpful measures, such as group and individual coachings.

Another pressing topic was yet again the UK's withdrawal from the Erasmus programme. To continue the Centre's work placement scheme alternative solutions need to be found, and there was agreement that these solutions will rather be of a bilateral nature between the Centre, the HU or Germany and the UK, and not a general UK-EU cooperation.

The meeting closed with Sir Paul thanking Prof Eisenberg and Prof Feldmann, who retired in 2021, on behalf of the Board for the cooperation and their service to the Centre, wishing them well for the future.



# Visitors

## ERASMUS+ TEAM

### HU INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

In November, several of the Centre's staff welcomed Dr Yoan Vilain, Head of HU's International Office, Christina Bohle, Global Mobility, and Ruben Assmann, Erasmus+, at Mohrenstrasse. The main topic on the agenda were the Centre's upcoming financial and visa problems once the UK has left the Erasmus programme at the beginning of 2023 and how these may be overcome with alternative schemes and projects. The International Office confirmed that it would support the Centre in every possible way.

## PROFS ØSTERMARK-JOHANSEN AND EVANGELISTA WRITING 1900 PROJECT

Professors Lene Østemark-Johansen (University of Copenhagen) and Stefano Evangelista (University of Oxford) came to Berlin in September to explore expanding the Happy in Berlin-project in the context of Writing 1900, specifically with a view to conducting a joint seminar on British writers in Berlin with MA students from Oxford, Copenhagen, and Berlin. Prof Stedman reciprocated the visit in Copenhagen in November, where she met the newly-established research group on emotions in 19th-century literature, and discussed the student exchange further.

## PROF DR NIELS PINKWART VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

On 9 November, the recently elected HU Vice President for Academic Affairs, Prof Niels Pinkwart, visited the Centre on his welcome tour through all the HU faculties to introduce himself and his plans for his period of office. One of the main focusses of his department, still, is to continue guiding the university through the special needs of teaching and studying under a pandemic. In this regard, he was interested to hear how the Centre had managed so far and what its plans were for the coming semesters. In the long run it remains to be seen in how far the experience of the last two years will have a permanent effect on the way teaching is organised. Finally, Prof Pinkwart was given a tour of our premises, especially the teaching rooms with their new technical equipment designed for hybrid teaching, useful tools in being able to react flexibly to the ever-changing corona regulations.

# Public Relations

Despite the restrictions of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, 2021 was a successful year for the Centre for British Studies in terms of public relations and public outreach.

The Exhibition “Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond”, co-curated by Professors Gesa Stedman and Stefano Evangelista, was reviewed on TIPBerlin and an interview with Gesa Stedman was published in the summer issue of EXBERLINER magazine. The catalogue to the exhibition was also very favourably reviewed by the Times Literary Supplement and more than 500 listeners to the five-part podcast series have been counted so far.

During 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic understandably still dominated the news cycle, however the interest in UK and Brexit matters in Germany remained strong. Prof Dannemann was interviewed on the outcomes of Brexit by Tagesschau and ARD. Prof Stedman was interviewed by BR24 and Dr Marius Guderjan was asked to comment on British foreign policy after Brexit for Radio Dreyeckland. Another pressing issue was the future of the Erasmus exchange programme: Prof Dannemann’s commentary appeared on rbb and Deutschlandfunk. Prof Dannemann was also invited to talk about the role of the British monarchy following the passing of Prince Philip in April 2021. As a member of VroniPlag Wiki, Prof Dannemann was often asked to comment on issues of plagiarism. He was interviewed by many media outlets, including Tagesschau, Tagesspiegel, RTL and Deutschlandfunk. This time, following the German elections, international press was also more alert to these matters: Prof Dannemann was asked to comment on plagiarism and politics for Deutsche Welle and the Guardian.

The GBZ blog, edited by Prof Schlaeger, continued in 2021 and provided readers with news about research projects, Brexit, GBZ events and conferences.

Most interviews and articles, as well as the blog, can be accessed via our website [www.gbz.hu-berlin.de](http://www.gbz.hu-berlin.de). You can also follow us on Facebook for regular updates, [www.facebook.com/CentreforBritishStudies](https://www.facebook.com/CentreforBritishStudies)



# Fellows

## Honorary Fellows

The Right Honourable Ben Bradshaw, MP

Sir Christopher Mallaby, GCMG, GCVO

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE, FEA

# Fellows

Dr Olivier Butzbach, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

Prof Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster

Dr Paolo Chiocchetti, European University Institute

Prof Valentine Cunningham, University of Oxford

Prof Stefano Evangelista, University of Oxford

Andy Feist, Home Office, UK

Prof Gisela Holfter, University of Limerick, Ireland

Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University, Wales

Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University, Scotland

Dr Carlo Morelli, University of Dundee

Dr Pikay Richardson, Manchester Business School

Prof Dr Steven Truxal, Leiden University

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB, Centre for British Studies

Prof Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer,  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität  
München

Dr Adrian Wilding,  
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena



Congratulations to Gisela Holfter (left) for being presented with the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* by the (then) German Ambassador to Ireland, Deike Potzel

# Staff

## Academic Staff

**PROF DR GERHARD DANNEMANN, MA (OXON)**

**Director**

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, Director of the Centre since October 2021. Studied law at Freiburg i.Br. and Bonn. Taught German and English law at Freiburg (Assistant Lecturer 1988-91), at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law Fellow in German Law 1991-94, at University College London (Visiting Lecturer, then Lecturer) 1992-95, and at the University of Oxford 1995-2002 (University Lecturer, then Reader in Comparative Law), where he was also a Fellow of Worcester College from 1995-2002. Dr jur. Freiburg i.Br. 1994, 'Habilitation' Freiburg i.Br. 2002. Joined the Centre for British Studies in 2003. Has published widely, in particular on the English and German legal systems, contract, tort, unjust enrichment, private international law, and also on standards of good academic practice. Visiting Research Fellow of the Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford; founder and general editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum* and the *German Law Archive*, co-reporter of the European Law Institute 'Draft Model Rules on Online Intermediary Platforms' project. On the MA British Studies programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches "Constitutional Law and Political System".

**PROF DR GESA STEDMAN**

**Deputy Director, Dean of Studies**

Gesa Stedman, currently Dean of Studies, also responsible for Oxford-Berlin and the Monday Lecture Series at the Centre. Professor of British Culture and Literature. Studied English, French and Film/Theatre Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Warwick. Received scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes. After a period as a visiting graduate student at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, she completed her PhD on the Victorian discourses on emotion at Humboldt-Universität in 2000. Research periods in Paris, Oxford, and London, supported by the Deutsches Historisches Institut, led to her 'Habilitation' on 17th-century Anglo-French cultural exchange

at Humboldt-Universität in 2005. Gesa Stedman was Professor of English and American Literature, at Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen from 2005-2008 and was appointed Professor of British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in 2008. She co-leads the international research network *Writing 1900* ([www.Writing1900.org](http://www.Writing1900.org)) and is a founding member of the interdisciplinary Berlin-Britain Research Network and of the website and blog *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope* ([www.literaryfield.org](http://www.literaryfield.org)). Research interests include the literary field in the UK, France, and Germany, the history of emotions, cultural exchange studies, in particular between England and France, Britons in Berlin, British film and film historiography, as well as gender history. Gesa Stedman is the spokesperson of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies and is a member of the Berlin University Alliance Humanities Oxford-Berlin consultation group.

## **PROF DR MILES TAYLOR**

### **Head of Exams and Admissions**

Miles Taylor joined the Centre in 2021 as Professor of British History and Society. He was previously Professor of Modern History at the University of York in the UK, and between 2008 and 2014 Director of the Institute of Historical Research in London. He studied at Queen Mary College University of London, Harvard University (where he was a Kennedy Scholar) and the University of Cambridge where he was awarded his PhD in 1989. He has taught at Cambridge, King's College London, and Southampton (where he was Professor of Modern British History, 2001-4). Professor Taylor is a 19th century specialist with a particular interest in Britain and its empire. His recent books include *Empress: Queen Victoria and India* (Yale 2018) and (as co-editor) *The Utopian Universities: A Global History of the New Campuses of the 1960s* (Bloomsbury, 2020). He is currently completing a book on parliamentary representation in the UK since the 18th century and a funded project on salt, protest and public health in India, <https://www.saltindiahistory.com/>. He co-convenes a research seminar on the 'History of Universities' (<https://www.histgeog-uni.net/history-of-universities-seminar/>) and is General Editor of the *New Cambridge History of Britain* to be published in five volumes by Cambridge University Press. He serves on the Research Advisory Board of the National Portrait Gallery, London, and on the Advisory Board of the *Journal of British Studies*. Professor Taylor is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society.

## **PROF DR JÜRGEN SCHLAEGER, CBE, FEA**

### **Senior Professor**

Senior Professor of British Literature and Culture. Studied history, philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford (B.A. 1967, M.A. 1973). He was Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Konstanz from 1976-95, and visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, at Fudan University, Shanghai, and also Visiting Research Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He was dean and pro-vice-chancellor at Konstanz and Chairman of the German Association of University Teachers of English, board member of the European Society of English Studies, and chair of the 'Shakespeare-Preis-Kuratorium' of the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung in Hamburg whose board he headed from 2011-2015. He is now on the board of ZEvA, one of the largest German Accreditation Agencies. He is a Fellow of the English Association. In 2009 he was made an honorary CBE. His publications range from literary theory, life-writing, Romanticism, and literary anthropology to the history and present state of university education. He was one of the editors of the *Yearbook of Research in English and American Literature* (REAL) until 2010.

## **PROF DR CHRISTIANE EISENBERG**

### **Emeritus Professor**

Christiane Eisenberg held the Chair of British History and Society from 1998 until her retirement in October 2021, and was Director of the Centre for British Studies in 2008-10, 2013-15 and 2019-21. She came to Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin after posts at Bielefeld University, where she gained her PhD in 1986, and Hamburg University, where she completed her 'Habilitation' in 1996. From 1987 until 1988 she was a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. Professor Eisenberg has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and cultural transfer research. Her books revolve thematically around questions of the market economy and how modern society deals with it. In the 1980s, her research focused on cooperatives and trade unions as organisations for market regulation. In the 1990s she then examined diverse aspects of modern sport, especially in its commercial manifestation, which has made it a world culture. During her time at the Centre for British Studies she took direct aim at the modern market economy and examined the English or rather British case, an early developed and especially successful example. Her current book project, "The

Sporting Spirit of Capitalism”, pursues the hitherto unexplored entanglements of sport and financial history, again with an eye on Britain. This investigation into the history of mentality takes up questions from Max Weber’s well-known essay on *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1904) – in order to answer them anew with knowledge of the state of research that has since been achieved.

### DR JASON ALLEN

Dr Jason Grant Allen joined the GBZ in 2017 as an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow, and is currently a Senior Research Fellow (*Projektleiter mit eigener Stelle*). Jason studied law and German in Australia, Germany, and the UK, ultimately taking a PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2016. A US and Australian qualified lawyer, Jason was Judicial Assistant to Sir Geoffrey Vos, then Chancellor of the EWHC, in 2016-2017. Jason researches at the intersection of law, technology, and economics, with a focus on the law of money and governance in digital environments. His work has been published in leading international journals and edited collections,

and he speaks at scholarly conferences as well as industry, government and NGO events. He has held affiliations at the UNSW, University of Tasmania, Universität Osnabrück, QMUL Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Weizenbaum Institute, Singapore Management University, Australian National University, and Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance. He is a tutor on the latter’s Fintech and Regulatory Innovation programme and is involved in a number of projects including the UNIDROIT Project LXXXII on digital assets in private law.

### DR MARIUS GUDERJAN

Lecturer and researcher in British Politics. Marius’ teaching responsibilities include the UK’s constitutional and political system politics, analysing British politics and British foreign relations. Marius’ ‘Habilitation’ project examines formal and informal intergovernmental relations in the UK. He also has a strong interest in the causes and consequences of Brexit. Further research activities include European integration, Europeanisation, local government, international relations, political attitudes and participation, welfare state and



Summer farewell lunch with Prof Christiane Eisenberg

social policy. Since 2016, Marius is co-chair of the German Association for British Studies (Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung), and since 2015 of the Berlin-Britain Research Network. Before he joined the GBZ in August 2014, Marius worked as a senior research assistant at the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan. He was involved in various projects and applications including Myplace and MyWeb (FP7 funded), and InnoSi (Innovative Social Investment, Horizon 2020 funded). In 2013, Marius obtained his PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University for the thesis *When Europe meets the local level – a fusing multilevel compound?*. His thesis explores European integration of local government in England and Germany. Prior to his PhD, Marius completed an MA in European Politics (Research) with distinction at the University of Liverpool and studied Social Science with an emphasis on politics at the University of Cologne.

#### **DR SAM MCINTOSH**

Lecturer and researcher in Law. Sam was awarded his PhD in law by City, University of London in 2016. His thesis discussed the principle of open justice in the context of investigations into deaths at the hands of the state. Sam spent three years of his PhD as a visiting student at the University of Vienna. He holds an LLM in Public International Law and an MA (joint honours) in Spanish and European History from the University of Edinburgh. Sam is qualified as a lawyer in England and Wales and has worked at three of the most highly regarded human rights firms in the country. He began his training in the criminal defence department at Imran Khan & Partners and went on to finish his training and work in the civil departments at Bhatt Murphy Solicitors and Hickman & Rose. At both firms he worked primarily on civil actions against police and prison authorities for abuse of power, and on inquests into deaths at the hands of the state. After leaving legal practice, Sam worked as a Sessional Lecturer and then a Teaching Fellow at the University of Reading, and as a research assistant on the “Law, Terrorism and the Right to Know” project at Reading University. This project explored democratic traditions of media freedom and the contemporary demands of national and international security in the context of terrorism-related court cases. Sam’s research interests include domestic and international human rights law, Coroners and the Coroners’ courts, open justice and the media’s relationship with the courts, transitional justice, the rights of unsettled refugees under Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and recognition theory. He teaches ‘Constitutional Law and the Political System’, ‘The English Legal System’, ‘The Coercive State’, ‘Mooting and Debating’.

#### **CHRISTOPH KÖNIG**

Christoph is a doctoral candidate and research fellow in the DFG-funded “F.A. Mann (1907-1991) und sein Beitrag zur Entwicklung des englischen, deutschen, europäischen und internationalen Rechts” project. His PhD thesis, supervised by Professor Dannemann, is a biography on the said F.A. Mann. Before that he worked as a student assistant at the Centre from 2013 to 2017. He undertook his undergraduate legal studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Zurich. Christoph is the former Chair and founding member of the Refugee Law Clinic Berlin and the Refugee Law Clinics Germany. He is a lecturer for commercial and private law at the University of Erfurt and teaches European Legal Traditions at Freie Universität Berlin.

#### **FELICIA KOMPIO, MA**

Lecturer and researcher in British History. Felicia’s research focuses on Britain in a European perspective. She studied History and Political Sciences at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Her research interests include cultural history of politics, history of revolutions and practices of protest, European urban history, and history of European communication networks in a transnational perspective as well as space as an analytical category in historical research. Felicia is teaching ‘Explorations in British History’ and co-teaching ‘Britons in Berlin’ and, in the summer term, ‘Interdisciplinary project: Self, Society, and Agency’.

#### **SOFIA PERMIKOVA, MA**

Sofia (Sonya) joined the Centre for British Studies in 2013 as a Master student. In October 2015 Sonya received the Humboldt Prize for her Master thesis “Women at War: Representation of War in Women’s War Poetry of the First World War”. Shortly after her graduation she became a lecturer and researcher in British Culture and Literature. Previously, Sonya worked with various cultural projects and institutions, for instance, as an interpreter at Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre, and taught English and Translation at Perm State National Research University (Russia). As a member of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, she is writing her PhD thesis on British women’s war poetry of the First and the Second World Wars. Her research interests include feminism and the representation of women in literature and art, cinematic ekphrasis in poetry and fiction, representation of urban spaces in literature and art, and poetry – from the early 20th century until today. Over the years

at the centre, Sonya has conceptualised and taught numerous courses, such as ‘Literature Workshop’, ‘Cultural Project Management’, ‘Literary Films and Cinematic Novels’, and ‘Britons in Berlin. The Berlin Myth’ (together with Prof Gesa Stedman and Felicia Kompio).

### **ANISIA PETCU, MA**

Lecturer and researcher in British culture and literature. In 2020 and 2021, Anisia managed and taught the practice-led course ‘Cultural Project Management’, in which she coordinated the students in putting together their own online exhibitions. The projects were, in both cases, in online format, to comply with the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were nevertheless very successful and engaging, the result of the students’ hard work and dedication. Anisia is interested in gender, representation, and the study of culture as a tool for both reinforcing and challenging social discourses. She currently works in an organisation dedicated to helping disadvantaged Eastern European immigrants in Berlin. Anisia came to Berlin from Romania in 2017 for the Centre’s MA British Studies, which she completed in 2019. Her MA thesis was a comparative analysis of the ways in which Roma (activist) actors from Romania and the UK use their artistic practice in order to fight widespread discrimination and put forward a new Roma identity. Before coming to Berlin, she studied English and German Language and Literature at the University of Bucharest. She is currently researching the situation of Romanian migrant workers in the UK and the mechanisms that contribute to their marginalisation. Other teaching included ‘Advanced Debating’, and ‘Advanced Project Workshop’.

### **JOHANNA ZINECKER, MA**

Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature. Johanna’s main interests include visual arts and cultural production in interdisciplinary and social-political fields, mental health cultures, art and activism, cultural disability and queer and feminist studies. She studied English and American Studies and German Literature at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Manchester. Before she came to the Centre for British Studies in 2013, Johanna has worked in the field of arts and culture in various roles, including as exhibition project coordinator at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. Beyond the cultural sector, Johanna is interested in pedagogy and education, in particular in relation to politics of diversity and inclusion. She

has also trained in Non-Violent Communication, both in Berlin and London. For the MA British Studies programme, Johanna teaches in the area of Cultural Studies and coordinates the placement scheme for the students, together with Dr. Marius Guderjan.

## **Administrative Staff**

### **CORINNA RADKE, MA**

Corinna studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität and in Madrid (funded by Erasmus), and passed a two-year further education course on public administration in 2009. Apart from taking part in the management of the Centre’s daily affairs and helping students with their problems and enquiries, she is responsible for the co-ordination of the Centre’s guest lecturers, organises the teaching schedule for the MA British Studies and administers any structural changes of the programme. Corinna co-ordinates the Erasmus+ Placement Programme that (still) offers financial support to students doing a work placement abroad. She also supports PhD students of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies and co-ordinates its diverse activities. Other responsibilities include co-ordinating funding applications, organising conferences and other events as well as preparing the manuscripts of conference proceedings and edited books and supervising their publication. Finally, she edits the annual report and is the Centre’s deputy Equal Opportunities Officer.

### **CATHERINE SMITH, BA (HONS)**

Catherine is the foreign language assistant at the Centre. She studied Humanities with History of Art (BA Hons) at the Open University in England. Apart from managing the office, she supports the Centre’s teaching and research activities. Further duties include co-ordinating visiting arrangements for international guests, organising conferences, seminars and events. She is also responsible for the co-ordination and organisation of public readings, the public lecture series, and assists with public relations, poster design, and press releases. Catherine also co-ordinates the MA British Studies interviews each year, and is the first point of contact for interested MA students concerning application and study plans. Other duties include the editing of research papers and publications and translating German texts into English. In 2021 Catherine celebrated 25 years’ service here at the Centre, so Cheers! to that.

## **SYLVENA ZÖLLNER**

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk. She has worked in HU's central pay office, the geography department, and the university's central finance department before joining the Centre in 1996. She is responsible for administering the Centre's finances, for the supply of office material, technical equipment, and everything else needed. She helps with the organisation of conferences. She also takes care of all financial transactions related to the Centre's activities, including the Centre's various and constantly growing third-party funds. Her responsibilities also include the filing of all records for our Master degree and preparing the final MA certificates. Since 2020 she has also been responsible for the changeover to the new administrative SAP programme at the Centre.

## **CHRISTINE SEURING, BA**

### **Librarian**

Graduated from the University of Cardiff with a BA in History and English literature as well as from the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam as a librarian. Worked and lived in Slovakia, Italy and France and spent the main part of her working life as a librarian at the Deutsche Kinemathek – Museum für Film und Fernsehen in Berlin. She joined the library in 2017 and is happy to answer any questions to do with finding information.

# **Student Assistants**

The Centre would like to thank the following student assistants who supported the Centre in its manifold activities in 2021:

- \* David Bell, Global History
- \* Lorenz Böttcher, Law
- \* Ricarda Callies, Law
- \* Mhairi Gador-Whyte, History
- \* Svala Hess, Cultural Studies and English
- \* Stefan Jooß, Industrial Engineering and Management
- \* Lara Jungbeck, Law
- \* Olga Lesiewicz, English and Media Studies
- \* Marco Mauer, Law
- \* Sarah Meyer, Law
- \* Kira-Lena Scharold, English and French



# Obituaries

## SIR CHRISTOPHER MALLABY GCMG GCVO



Sir Christopher passed away on 28 February 2022 at the age of 85. Born in 1936, he was educated at Eton, Cambridge and the Harvard Business School. He joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1959 and retired from it in 1996. His diplomatic career included stations in the British Embassy in Moscow from 1961-1963 and from 1974-1977. From 1982 to 1985 he was Minister in the British Embassy in Bonn,

and from 1985 to 1988 Deputy Secretary of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet. He came back to Germany as Ambassador in March 1988. At the end of 1992 he left Germany to become Britain's Ambassador in France. Sir Christopher then worked for 10 years as a Managing Director in investment banking. He worked as a voluntary trustee of the Tate Galleries and Chairman of the Somerset House Trust and the Charitable Trust of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer. From 1996 until 2005 Sir Christopher served as Chairman of the Centre's Advisory Board. On his retirement from this position, the Centre made him its first Honorary Fellow. He was one of the founding fathers of the Centre who used his diplomatic skills and proverbial acuity to advise and help whenever it was needed. He remained interested in the activities of the Centre way beyond his tenure as Chairman of the Advisory Board and kept up with events and developments, not least during a lively presentation of his last book. We will always remember and honour his friendship, advice, and generosity.

## DR HERMANN FREIHERR VON RICHTHOFEN

Freiherr von Richthofen (born 20 November 1933) passed away on 17 July 2021 at the age of 88. He was German Ambassador in London from 1989 to 1993, the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification, and continued to shape German-British relations in a variety of ways, not least as the long-standing Chairman of the Anglo-German Society. With this experienced diplomat, the Centre for British Studies also loses a frequent guest at its events and an important supporter of its work. We will always remember this impressive personality with much respect.



Photo: Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft

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The Centre for British Studies would like to thank the following institutions for their generous support in 2021:

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- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
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- Strategic Initiative Funds, HU International Strategy Office
- The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH)
- Experiment e.V.

### Student hardship fund:

- Milos Aponowicz
- Prof Dr Helmut Weber

# Become a member of the Friends of the Centre for British Studies

Oh, I get by with  
a little help from my friends  
Mm, I get high with  
a little help from my friends  
Mm, gonna try with  
a little help from my friends

The present Ukraine crisis is showing us how closely we are bound together in Europe by values and fundamental convictions, whatever our differences in the details and, likewise, Brexit has not changed that one bit. Compared with the massive human crisis resulting from Putin's brutal attack on its neighbour our problems here at the Centre seem negligible. We do have students (at present more than a dozen) from both side of the conflict who have serious problems with money transfers, contacts and worries about their relatives. We help where we can, but our resources to do that are limited.

Our registered charity 'Förderverein des Großbritannien-Zentrums' was set up to help students in need.

**So, if you are willing to help us continue doing that  
please support our efforts.**

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Mohrenstraße 60 10117 Berlin <http://www.gbz-hu-berlin.de>

## Support us now!

2021 has been a challenging year. The pandemic forced us to reorganise our teaching, offering much of it in online formats. So far it has worked well enough, although we all agree that it is no real alternative to the face-to-face situation in the classroom. The Centre's track record in terms of the average time needed to get a degree and the percentage of students to finish their chosen subjects is unequalled by any other subject in our university. And we are determined to keep it so in the years to come. Research activities are flourishing and Professor Eisenberg's successor Miles Taylor has enriched our plans for the coming years with many innovative ideas. Altogether, there is much to look forward to and we invite you to share our optimism and enthusiasm.

**Recently, the 'general assembly', elected a new Chair and Deputy. Professors Jürgen Schlaeger and Miles Taylor are taking over from Professors Gesa Stedman and Helmut Weber who guided 'Friends' for over a decade.**

Please donate whatever you can to the following bank account (it will be tax deductible in Germany):

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