

CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES
GROßBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



STUDENT PROJECT: 100 YEARS OF BRITONS IN BERLIN

ONLINE
PANEL

BRITISH
BERLIN HISTORY

QUIZ &
BOOK CORNER



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 reunification 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 3-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.



For the new group of students a few classes were allowed to be held on the premises (under strict hygienic and distancing regulations). It was nevertheless good to get to know each other in person – even if face-to-face meant mask-to-mask.

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THE CENTRE IN 2020

My colleagues at the Centre for British Studies and I had actually expected major changes for our work once the Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. Last spring, it came as a bit of a surprise that, due to Covid-19, business as usual would be impossible in 2020. Because the start of the semester was just around the corner, with the start of the lockdown we had to adjust to an unprecedented situation from one moment to the next. So, after the pleasing result of a roll call, according to which almost all students and staff members were safe and sound, although some were stuck in the UK or in their home countries, the staff rolled up their sleeves and contributed to making the Centre pandemic-ready. This report from the 25th year of the Centre's activities documents the challenges and the many creative solutions, but also the inevitable frustration because some things could not be realised in the way we had imagined.



The deserted Centre in May 2020: due to the Covid-19 lockdown students weren't allowed into the university and staff also had to work from home

A particular source of initial frustration was the closing of the Centre to the public in March, followed by the transition to remote teaching and administration and the gradually dawning realisation that this would remain the state of affairs for the whole of 2020.

Needless to say, the planned 25th anniversary could only take place in a few short internet statements on the HU website, but had to be cancelled as an event – which disappointed not only Senior Professor Jürgen Schlaeger, the founding director of the Centre, who turned 80 this year and was very much looking forward to this exchange opportunity with companions and the remaining fellow-founders. Many other exchanges that had required a lot of preparation were also cancelled. The long list includes conferences and workshops, trips to archives and libraries, expert discussions with colleagues, interviews, etc. Some things could be organised online as a substitute, but electronic communication has its limits – to the effect that, for example, we were not able to offer our guest lecturers the slightest hospitality this year.

This reduction in the functioning of the Centre was also a challenge for the staff itself. Chatting in the corridors, the cup of coffee in the kitchen, the joint lunch at the Russian restaurant across the street, the Christmas and graduation party – these are not just additional or even luxury activities, but important moments for all of us to mediate social relations and moods. They are the social cement that holds an institution together and, in our case, a crucial element which helps foster mutual exchange with our manifold partners, both locally and in the UK and in Ireland.

Those who probably missed these aspects of university life most of all were our students who, coming from all over the world, sometimes had to bridge huge distances to experience the Centre for British Studies essentially as a virtual place in 2020. As much as the lecturers may have tried to make their lessons online-friendly, this year they remained faces in Zoom boxes on laptop screens. And nothing could hide the fact that the country whose history and whose present these young people want to study is currently largely inaccessible to them and, on top of that, has just withdrawn from Erasmus+ student funding. The disappointment must have been considerable, even if most students are too polite to show it.

On the other hand, the students may have noticed that even the virtual Centre is an active, creative and sought-after space with attractive offers. Furthermore, just like the staff, they may have noticed how privileged the Centre for British Studies is in that it has a support network that also takes effect in such special situations. First and foremost, I would like to mention our Advisory Board, whose members lobby for us behind the scenes of Whitehall. This circle has expanded this year with the addition of Paul Smith OBE, the new Director of the British Council in Berlin, and Professor Christina von Hodenberg, the Director of the German Historical Institute London. We look forward to meeting them in person in our premises next year!

As an example of academic contacts that we have been able to use successfully, I would like to mention here a timely Lecture Series on Ireland and Northern Ireland (“A Decade of Centenaries”), which grew out of the Centre’s cooperation with Professor Gisela Hoflter (University of Limerick) and Professor Paul Carmichael (Ulster University). When it turned out that the lectures could not be held as planned, an online format was agreed upon without much fuss, so the series probably got a larger and more widespread audience than it might have originally have seen in our lecture hall.

Another highlight was our annual Keynote Lecture by Lady Arden of Heswell DBE, where the public was able to join via videolink while a few selected HU members, including our Master students, could be present in the university’s Senate Hall.

For me personally, it was a pleasant surprise to see how, in the year of our 25th anniversary, our more and more established alumni of the MA British Studies donated to the Centre’s Friends fund to assist students in need.



Lady Arden on “Law, Judges, and the Unwritten Constitution in Britain: Some Contemporary Issues with Insights from Shakespeare”



Precious helper: The Centre bought a new modern conference system that was installed by Prof Dannemann and Stefan Jooß in the summer. The few in-class sessions and meetings that were allowed to take place could thus be transmitted live via Zoom for those who couldn't be there in person

Even more than in previous times, the Centre has benefited in this challenging year from the untiring commitment of its staff, who have kept things running, sometimes under adverse conditions. They all did what they could. Nevertheless, I would like to single out our IT expert Stefan Jooß, who deserves the title of staff member of the year, if we had it to give – not only because he, together with Gerhard Dannemann, managed the technical upgrading of the Centre's online communication system, but also because with his remote diagnostics he freed other staff members from many a technical glitch in their so-called "home office". Without his support the teaching and event operations could not have been carried out as smoothly as they might have looked to the outside world. Sylvena Zöllner, Catherine Smith and Corinna Radke, our administrative staff, were also among those who kept an eye on the coordination of the whole, thereby remaining as invisible

to external observers as the glasses on your noses through which you might be browsing this annual report. A special thank you to Corinna for compiling it, designing it and getting it printed.

I wish you a pleasant read!
Christiane Eisenberg



GBZ staff prepared 105 and Co. to be certified lecture rooms



Happy Birthday Professor Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE!

The Centre celebrated the 80th birthday of its founding Director in December. He was "treated" to an incredibly moving rendition of *Happy Birthday* and *Viel Glück und viel Segen* by his colleagues (in that it probably moved him to mute his computer). We wish Jürgen the best of health and all good things for the many years to come.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRE

by Jürgen Schlaeger

In the beginning was the idea – born and grown out of debates in English departments in Munich, Konstanz and elsewhere, and in line with worldwide discussions about the need for broadening the remit of the academic field to include not only English literature and linguistics but also other aspects of British culture. Out of these debates soon emerged a more detailed plan for the establishment of an interdisciplinary Centre for British Studies somewhere in Germany.

Happily, this idea fell on fertile ground in Berlin, where the City government was looking for an appropriate way to thank Britain for its role in protecting West-Berlin during the Cold War. It was also decided to attach the new Centre to Humboldt-Universität, the oldest and at the same time newest of Berlin's three Universities, as it was right in the middle of a restructuring process, when, in 1995, the decision based on the recommendations of a panel of experts was taken to go ahead. Premises were found and the Centre was officially opened in June that year.

The next five years were taken up by appointing staff, building networks of cooperation, organising lectures, panels and conferences and working on the design for an innovative Master degree in British Studies. For 25 years now the Centre has operated successfully and not only firmly established itself in the field, but also built a reputation for innovative approaches, formats and research projects.

Of course, we would have liked to celebrate our 25th anniversary with our customary hospitality and an academic programme to match that, but the pandemic has forced us to change our plans and offer a number of online events and lectures, instead. This Annual Report shows what we have done in our 25th year and gives you, in the red boxes at the bottom of each page, a timeline of the Centre's development.



Jägerstraße 10-11: the first-ever British Studies class in front of the Centre's old premises in 1999



Mohrenstraße 60: showing the new premises of the Centre to our guest lecturers, shortly before moving in 2008

1993

A commission of experts is appointed to draft a concept for a centre for British Studies in Berlin, chaired by Professor Wolfgang Iser, University of Konstanz.

1994

In January, the commission presents their recommendations to the Berlin 'Senator for Wissenschaft und Forschung'. In September, the Kuratorium of Humboldt-Universität decides to establish the Centre for British Studies as an independent university institute and assigns three professorships plus staff for its initial phase.

MA BRITISH STUDIES

Course Description

M.A. BRITISH STUDIES
Join the Centre for British Studies in Berlin.
Apply by 30 April.
Start every October.

THERE IS MORE TO BRITISH STUDIES THAN BREXIT

- UK politics / law / economics
history / culture / literature
- Interdisciplinary course
- Guest lecturers from the UK
- Work placement in the UK
- Open to all first degrees
- All classes in English
- International students
- No tuition fees

Find out more at www.gbz.hu-berlin.de
Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | Mohrenstraße 60 | 10117, Berlin

Our postgraduate Masters course started in 1999 and quickly became a resounding success. In 2014, Humboldt-Universität's new general study regulations came into effect, and the unique MBS was relaunched as a Master of Arts in British Studies. Our first MA students graduated in 2016. 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. Furthermore, advanced study seminars are available which enable students to hone their academic writing and presentation skills. We offer a unique learning experience due to the diverse academic background of our international student body, the interdisciplinarity of the study programme, which combines theory and practice, and a combination of lectures and small-group tutorials 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.

The entire course is taught in English

Course Structure

The postgraduate degree course is an interdisciplinary teaching programme. The course lasts two years and consists of a one-year Certificate Phase followed by a Master Phase which also lasts a year. Having successfully completed the Certificate Phase, students receive a "British Studies" certificate on request. After successful completion of the entire course, students are awarded the degree "MA British Studies". The Certificate Phase comprises 30 weeks of teaching, divided into two semesters. The first phase consists of a series of lectures and seminars which are compulsory for all students. In the second phase 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. The final part is dedicated to writing a six-month MA Thesis.

The course starts each year in October (winter semester).

Never Mind Brexit We Love British Studies

Britain's relationship with Europe is changing.

European businesses and political, financial, and cultural institutions all need experts on Britain fast.

You could be one of them.

www.gbs.hu-berlin.de
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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.

Admission information, as well as an application form, can be found on our website under "MA British Studies"

1995

The premises for the Centre in Jägerstraße 10/11 are opened officially by the Regierende Bürgermeister of Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen, and the British Ambassador Sir Nigel Broomfield. In October, Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger MA (Oxon.) is appointed as founding director. In November, Prince Charles visits Humboldt-Universität and also meets Professor Schlaeger.

MA BRITISH STUDIES

Course Outline

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	Interdisciplinary 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 Electives*		Module 13
5 ECTS	Module 14	Module 15	15 ECTS
Advanced Academic Writing and Debating	5 ECTS	5 ECTS	Work Placement in the UK (three months)
	Advanced Seminars - Theory and Research	Advanced Project Workshop	

* Modules 14 and 15 may be substituted by other HU courses.

4th Semester

30 ECTS
MA Thesis (six months)

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 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)
- Economics and Management (8 ECTS)
- Politics and Society (8 ECTS)
- Law in Context (8 ECTS)
- Media, History, and Culture (8 ECTS)
- Culture and Literature (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 can also attend the following modules:

- Advanced Seminars – Theory and Research (5 ECTS)
- Advanced Project Workshop (5 ECTS)



A student welcome of a different kind: keeping the distance and wearing masks

1996

The year's main event is a conference on 'The Media Debate, British and German Perspectives', held in September. The conference is jointly organised by the Centre for British Studies, The British Council, the British Embassy and the BBC. Its results are published as the first volume of a new series. In cooperation with the Anglo-German Foundation, the Centre organises a German-British seminar on the social, political and economic transformations in Germany after re-unification.

MA British Studies Students

Class 2019-2021

	Name	Country	First Degree
1	Antunes Pereira, Rafael	Brazil	American Studies
2	Balkan, Ahsen Nur	Turkey	Turkish Language and Literature
3	Davut, Halil Suhacan	Turkey	English Language and Literature, Philology
4	Fomenko, Polina	Russia	Linguistics
5	Haas, Jasmin	Germany	Cultural Studies and English
6	Hadarics, Piroska	Hungary	English and American Studies
7	Haydar, Hazal	Turkey	English Literature
8	Jalilli, Parvana	Azerbaijan	English Language Teaching
9	Klishevich, Anna	Russia	Education (German and English)



Name	Country	First Degree
10 Kuteeva, Alina	Russia	Philology, Literature, Translation
11 Li, Jiexi	China	English Language and Literature
12 Li, Pengling	China	Literature and Advertising
13 Lin, Jing	China	English Studies; International Business
14 Macedo Marques, Mariana	Brazil	Media and Journalism
15 Marques Da Rocha, Micaela	Portugal	Modern Languages
16 Mykytyshyn, Alina	Ukraine	English and French Philology, World Literature
17 Nascimento Ferreira, Bruno	Brazil	Advertising
18 Nazar, Pavlo	Ukraine	English Language and Literature
19 Özköroğlu, Ilkyaz Yagmur	Turkey	Comparative Literature
20 Pedrelli, Simona	Italy	Foreign Languages and Literatures, English and German
21 Rimskaya, Sofia	Russia	Arts, Screenwriting, Filmmaking
22 Rohlfing, Helena	UK/Germany	Politics and German
23 Saif, Anoushaey	Pakistan	Business Administration
24 Salieva, Gulirano	Russia	Enterprise Management
25 Shi, Zhen	China	English
26 Tülübaş, Dilayda	Turkey	English Language and Literature
27 Tzioridi, Danai	Greece	English Language and Literature
28 Ulrich, Constance	Germany	Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies
29 Vrazhnova, Anastasiia	Russia	Pedagogical Education; German and English
30 Wu, Zih-Jhen	Taiwan	Interpreting and Translation
31 Yang, Wan-Ting	Taiwan	Foreign Languages and Linguistics
32 Yaşa, Hüseyin	Turkey	Translation and Interpretation (German)
33 Yolgeçenli, Lâl	Turkey	English Language and Literature
34 Yılmaz, Bürde	Turkey	Interpreting and Translation (English)
35 Zarifova, Yekaterina	Kazakhstan	Linguistics

Class 2020-2022

	Name	Country	First Degree
1	Bako, Matilda	Albania	Linguistics and Literature
2	Balko, Evgeniia	Russia	English and German; Education
3	Beşiroğlu, Eylem	Turkey	Interpreting and Translation
4	Bruckmann, Mareike	Germany	English and American Studies; General Linguistics
5	Carter, Lilli	Germany/UK	English Philology
6	Chen, Ruoying	China	English Studies
7	Chen, Siyuan	China	English Language and Literature
8	Dmitriev, Aleksei	Russia	Philology
9	Förster, Isabel	Germany	English Studies, German Studies
10	Fraynt, Ilya	Russia	Modern and Contemporary History of Europe and the US
11	Gündoğmuş, Salih	Turkey	English Translation and Interpretation
12	Hitchcock, Maisie	UK	History of Art and Architecture
13	Hung, Wei Chun	Taiwan	Foreign Language and Literature



	Name	Country	First Degree
14	Jones, Jamie-Lee	UK	French Studies with International Relations
15	Krasnoiaruzhenskaia, Anastasiia	Russia	English
16	Ludewig, Melanie	Germany	European Studies
17	Mercado, Soledad Mabel	Argentina	English Language and Culture
18	Nöbauer, Mirjam	Austria	English and American Studies
19	Özgüldez, Zeynep Asel	Turkey	English Language and Literature
20	Rombach, Luisa Sofie	Germany	English and American Studies
21	Rustamzade, Afruz	Azerbaijan	Translation (English-Russian)
22	Shahri, Hasti	Iran	English Language and Literature
23	Solodovnikova, Anna	Russia	Education (Teaching English)
24	Soylu, Türkü	Turkey	English Language and Literature; Film Studies
25	Timokhin, Alexander	Russia	International Relations
26	Wang, Shuhan	China	English Language and Literature



Teaching

Example

Literature Workshop: Socially-Distant Drama

Marianne Graffam

A drama workshop usually requires close physical contact, trust within a group, and clear elocution. How does one achieve this with a group of new international students during Covid-19? By using practical obstacles to highlight issues in the studied play! This year, we did a hybrid workshop, focussing on the lesser known Shakespearean Romance *Cymbeline* and investigated the play's language and meaning as well as different performance styles. The few students participating on Zoom actively contributed to discussions as well as the role of "big brother" or the Voice of God in the final performances for the group. Seeing as *Cymbeline* also deals with banned, alienated family and court members - the current situation actually helped us get into the themes. Well done to the students for conquering adversities like difficult language read through masks, the unknown play, and working in a team despite the physical separation!



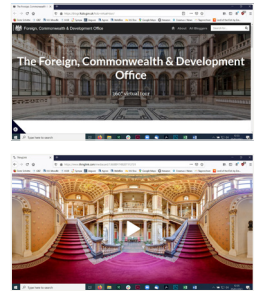
The students acting Shakespeare, via videoconferencing and in class

Further Activities

Visit to the British Embassy

Our annual visit to the British Embassy was less of an actual visit as it took place digitally from home because of the lockdown. On 11th December, Astrid Ladd, Team Assistant at the Press Office, together with Catherine Smith very kindly organised this visit for our new class. Mr Nick Wareham, gave us an insight into his current position as Embassy Spokesperson and Head of Communi-

cations & Bilateral Team in Berlin and the importance of bilateral communication with Germany, especially with regard to current issues such as UK-EU relations and the embassy's job in promoting good relations. It was a disappointment not to be able to visit the building on Wilhelmstraße as usual. Nevertheless, the digital meeting turned out to be successful and students were also able to take a digital tour of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO): <https://blogs.fcdo.gov.uk/fcdo-virtual-tour/>. Thank you to the British Embassy and all participants for this.



A 360° virtual FCDO tour

Online Study Group

Due to the pandemic and lockdown, libraries and other common spaces so essential for students to study in are temporarily 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 in the winter semester she joined forces with Gesa Stedman, Felicia Kompio, and Anisia Petcu to keep the study group going.

The format of the study group is as follows: 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 45-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 students can be supported during the trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Centre also coaches students individually, sends out regular bulletins on mental and physical health issues, and has set up both collective and individual support sessions with two professional coaches and therapists to help students manage these difficult times.

1997

Prof Dr Helmut Weber is appointed to the chair of 'Legal, Economic and Social Structures of Britain'. The Centre hosts a number of meetings and conferences, the largest being on 'The Future of the Welfare State', the results of which were published as the second volume of the Centre's publication series. The Centre also starts its public lectures and readings series with a number of distinguished scholars and writers, such as Valentine Cunningham or Caryl Phillips.

SPOTLIGHT

Student Project

A HUNDRED YEARS OF BRITONS IN BERLIN. From the Roaring 20s to the 2020s

An exploration through the decades, in which academic rigour, youthful curiosity, and Berlin's well-known subversive vein come together for an exciting journey.

By Anisia Petcu, Lecturer Cultural Project Management



For years now, the students of the Centre have been organising creative and engaging exhibitions as part of the Berlin *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*. This year, the plan was to be no different ... except, of course, it had to be. Just as the creative process was in full swing, we were faced with a cancelled *Lange Nacht*, and with the challenge of quickly finding an alternative that would still enable us to build on and build up our students' many talents.



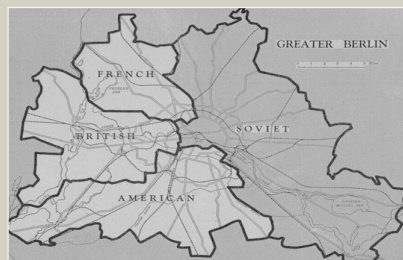
A broad and complex look at the city, through the eyes of the British

last 100 years, the exhibition looks at the impact various individuals have had on the city, as well as the opportunities that Berlin presented for British immigrants. With difference and controversy acting almost as guiding threads throughout our research, we take a look at how the city has acted as a safe space for queer identities, the significance it holds for WWII survivors of the Kindertransport, at its physical and political divisions, and at its relevance during the Cold War.

Division of Berlin during the Cold War

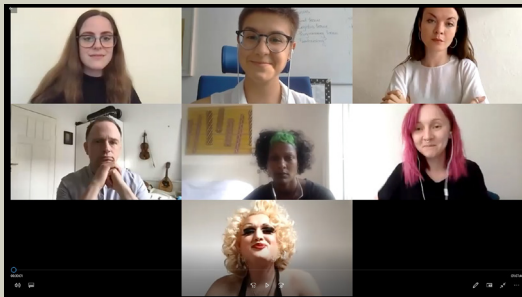
What resulted was an interactive, innovative online exhibition, entitled *A Hundred Years of Britons in Berlin. From the Roaring 20s to the 2020s*. In this online exhibition, our students explored the rich and varied history of British nationals making Berlin their home, diving into the lives, struggles, identities, and influences of Britons in Berlin, celebrating a 100-year time period starting from the Roaring 20s to the 2020s.

With a focus on the presence and contributions of British nationals in Berlin during the



The online exhibition shows how these episodes have been working on the British psyche and how they have influenced the social and cultural landscape, both in Germany and the UK. In particular, the reflection of this history in British art production, be it in music, literature or painting is extremely rich.

Alongside the historical perspective, the exhibition also investigates the present realities of being British and living in Berlin – a perspective which goes beyond the questions and uncertainties of Brexit. One can find a series of testimonials of diverse British nationals who have chosen to relocate to Berlin, and who have shared with us the significance of the city, of its streets, landmarks, nooks and crannies.



Discussing their Berlin experience on the panel:

From left:

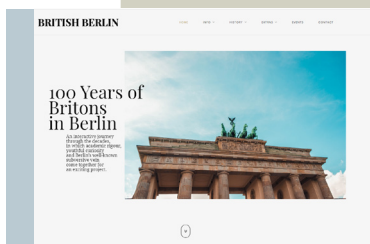
Top: Emma Lawson, Anisia Petcu, Shiofra McCherry

Middle: Daniel Tetlow, Perera Elsewhere, Alina Kuteeva

Bottom: Bleach

On the 3rd of July, the project started with a public panel discussion, which brought together a musician, a sociologist, a writer, an editor, and a drag queen. Our guests discussed a diversity of topics, from the cultural landscape in Germany and the UK, the responses of the two governments to the current pandemic, as well as the significance and meaning of belonging to a minority, how Brexit has made them reconsider aspects of their identities, and the importance of activism and getting involved with local communities. The panel discussion can also still be watched online.

Curious? Then take a look: <https://british-berlin.com/>



A Placement Provider Voice

We have missed not being able to support placements from the Centre during this time and feel that inviting a student to work with us remotely will still mean they can benefit from our support even if they can't physically visit Liverpool.

Jenny Porter,
Metal Liverpool



Pre-pandemic open doors: Metal, a reliable placement partner

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.

To cope with this year's travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the uncertainties over Brexit, the work placement scheme adopted various new options, such as remote and more Germany-based placements with a clear UK-focus.

Another problem to be faced is the fact that the UK has now decided to leave the European Erasmus+ exchange programme. This does not only lead to bigger financial hurdles;



Erasmus+

the Erasmus status was furthermore essential in receiving a visa under the Temporary Worker – Government Authorised Exchange scheme (T5). Non-EU students know about the administrative procedures (and costs) but now also EU students need a visa to be able to do their work placements in the UK. So keeping some kind of official cooperational ties with the UK is crucial for the continuation of our placement scheme. The relevant authorities and stakeholders are now in the process of finding an adequate solution for a future student exchange programme. We will work hard to maintain this favourite part of our programme.

Report

Micaela Marques Da Rocha

Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere

My placement was with the Wordsworth Trust, from October to December 2020. I was supposed to go to the beautiful Lake District to work at the Dove Cottage where the renowned poet William Wordsworth had spent most of his life. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, that was not possible. However, I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in one of their projects remotely. I was assigned the task of researching all the places where Dora Wordsworth, William's younger sister and also an author and poet, had been when she visited Portugal in the 19th century. It felt great to have some form of contact with my home country and to be able to contribute to a bigger project on a topic I was very interested in. Overall it was a great experience, even though I had to stay in Berlin.

Wan-Ting Yang

University of Southampton, International Office

Working at the University of Southampton as International Partnerships Manager has given me an invaluable insight into what “post-Brexit” will look like for higher education institutions in the UK. It is imperative for the International Office to provide contingencies and new schemes to mitigate the impact of the impending decrease of European students. I sense profoundly that Brexit has forced educators to change the focus of attention to adapt to the transition. My experience has given me the opportunity to “think big”, because there’s a big reset coming on a global scale. While wading through the significant impact brought on by the pandemic outbreak, I started to gain better clarity on the importance of “in-person” engagement and how critical it is for building our international networks and for developing partnerships. It was my great honour to be brought in to support the international team and to make sure the University is proactively involved internationally. This placement wouldn’t have happened without the full support from GBZ. It is undoubtedly the best part during my MA British Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.



Student Service Centre, International Office, with Wan-Ting’s office on the second floor

Placement Providers 2020/21

Ben Bradshaw MP, House of Commons * Birmingham City Council * British Council, Taipeh, Taiwan * Colegio Impacto, Brazil * Deveron Projects, Huntly * European Diplomats, Berlin * IndieRepublik, Berlin * International Office, University of Southampton * Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Parliament * Leeds Film Festival * Limerick City Gallery of Art * Psychetolia, London * Queen Mary University of London * TNquadrat, Berlin * Universities Scotland, Edinburgh * Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere * Yellow House Cultural Centre, Liverpool

1998

Humboldt-Universität appoints an Advisory Board for the Centre chaired by former ambassador Sir Christopher Mallaby. Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg is appointed to the professorship for ‘British History since the Restoration’. The Master in British Studies interdisciplinary degree course is approved by the University Senate, with enrolment beginning for the winter semester 1999. Start of the Centre’s ‘Readymix’-lecture series with the British architect Sir David Chipperfield. The Centre hosts the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and the board meeting of the European Society for the Study of English ESSE. The new British ambassador Sir Paul Lever visits the Centre.

MA Theses

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns libraries, PC pools and other working spaces for students had to close and the university reacted with several deadline suspensions for written assignments and theses. The following thesis topics of class 2018-20 are therefore mostly work-in-progress titles.

- UK Government Stance on English Language Classes for Refugees
- Contemporary British Quantum Fiction
- Unfair Advertising in Influencer Marketing
- Trauma in Contemporary Irish Literature
- The Androgynous Poetics of British Women Poets of the Interwar Period
- Representation of the Female Artist in British Film and Literature
- The Representation of Women in the TV Series 'Peep Show'
- From Rabwah to London: A Comparison of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Pakistan and the UK
- The Representation of Women in British Animation
- Re-Inventing Sport History? Sports Films and Documentaries in the UK
- The Role of Social Media for General Elections: the 2019 Labour Campaign
- Debates on Higher Education in Post-War Britain
- Reconsidering Violence on the 20th-Century British Stage
- Giving a Voice to the 'Left-Behind': Brexit Populism and UK Democracy
- Sustainable Tourism in the UK
- Language and Politics in Wales
- Narrating the Self in Three Contemporary British Memoirs of Mental Illness
- National Identity Narratives and the Mythologization of History in the Brexit Campaign
- Domestic Violence in England and Wales
- Advertising Practices of British Map Makers Around the Turn of the 17th to the 18th Century
- What Does it Mean to be an Artist? A Comparison Between the UK and the Czech Republic
- Immigration, Brexit and the Media
- Originality in Inspired Art
- Euroscepticism in the SNP
- Working Class Self-Education in Industrialising Britain: The Case of Reading and Writing
- The Function of Binary Oppositions in British Children's Literature. A Comparison of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* and A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*

- Empire in Edwardian Travel Writing
- Resale of eBooks
- English Men's Fashion 1750-1850
- The Road to Brexit and its Constitutional Repercussions
- Compensation of the Windrush Scandal Victims
- Anti-Racism Activism in the UK
- A Comparative Study on Public Authorities in Migration Governance in the UK and Germany

A Student Voice

I am so happy that this master programme has changed my life a lot for the better. Only five years ago, I was doing a 13-hour long night shift in a police car in Istanbul, but now, there is a chance that I can go to King's College for an exchange. It is just amazing. Despite Brexit, I hope the MA British Studies will continue to give people like me chances of changing their destinies for the better. Thank you again.

Emre Altuntaş, MA British Studies 2018-20

Alumni

As is the case every year, Sam McIntosh has continued to keep in touch with our alumni through our annual Alumni Newsletter and by keeping them informed about relevant job opportunities as well as events taking place at the Centre and beyond. Unfortunately, the pandemic meant that this year's Stammtisch had to be cancelled, but it is hoped that this will be able to resume sometime next year.

Sam is also currently conducting an online survey of our alumni in order to update our information on where our alumni end up in terms of profession and countries of residence. A big thank you to

1999

The Master in British Studies takes off with 20 students from 6 different countries. The Keynote Lecture is given by Lord Dahrendorf on "Tradition and Modernity: The Future of the House of Lords". The proceedings of *The Future of the Welfare State – German-British Perspectives* are published. Professors Schlaeger and Weber visit a number of British Universities to explore possibilities of cooperation. Professor Cunningham, Oxford, judge of the Booker Prize, gives a lecture on "Prize-Writing: The Practice of the Literary Prize in Britain".

those alumni who have responded! If you haven't participated yet you can still do so until April 2021, we would really like to know about our alumni - here is the link again.

<https://umfrage.hu-berlin.de/index.php/625324?lang=en>

It is anonymous and takes 1-2 minutes to complete just three questions. It is very important for us to get as wide a response to the survey as possible.

Finally, a number of alumni very generously responded to our call for help to set up a hardship fund which we use to help our current students who have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, we would like to thank Anastasiya Röthig (née Shamotko), Elena Verigo, Anna Wittan, and Shanshan Yang, as well as those alumni who very generously donated anonymously. If you would like to contribute to our hardship fund, please make your donations to the account of the Centre's Friends (see last but one page).

What happened to ...

Alexandra-Maria Colța

Class 2012-2014

After completing my work placement at Tern TV in Glasgow I went back to my home country, to Bucharest, Romania, where I finalised my MA thesis about "Document Human Rights Film Festival" and worked in film and television production. A year later, I came back to Glasgow to start a very exciting collaborative PhD set up as a partnership between the Universities of Glasgow, St Andrews and Document Festival to continue my research on human rights film festivals, politics and programming practices. I finished my dissertation in 2019 and graduated in the summer of 2020, during lockdown. I am still living in Glasgow and currently working as Festivals and Distribution Coordinator at the Scottish Documentary Institute and as a Producer of – you guessed it – Document Human Rights Film Festival. I am also coordinating the Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration (GRAMNet) Film Series, organising monthly screenings on migration, refugee and asylum issues, and teaching occasionally about film studies, distribution, and exhibition. I am really grateful to be an MBS alumna, as this programme expanded my knowledge about the field of cultural studies in the UK and offered me the confidence to discover and work in a city that I haven't considered before and which has now become my second home.



Melanie Neumann

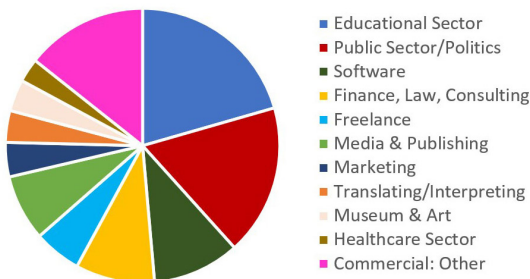
Class 2010-2012

I graduated from the M.B.S. in 2012 and then worked for a start-up for two years before returning to the Centre to pursue a PhD. I was lucky enough to be one of the first three PhD students at the GBZ and even luckier that the programme included a scholarship. It was great to be back and work with so many familiar faces and to be able to turn a long-held interest of mine into a research project. In my dissertation I looked at recent Irish and British migration to Berlin and thanks to the interdisciplinarity and wide network of the Centre as well as the flexibility of the staff I was able to realise the project in the way I had envisioned it. It is fair to say that the PhD has opened many doors for me, especially the one I had been aiming to open for a while: since submitting my thesis I have been working at the Embassy of Ireland in Berlin, first as Consular and Irish Community Officer and now for the past 1,5 years as PA to the Ambassador and Irish Community Officer. I would like to thank everyone at the Centre for their support over the years and for enabling me to pursue my passion. I have many fond memories of those years in Mohrenstraße, where I have always felt at home and still love to visit (and sometimes teach).



Alumni Chart

This chart shows the professional whereabouts of 70% of the alumni about whom we have up-to-date information.



2000

Helmut Weber leaves the Centre to take up the position of Permanent Undersecretary of State in the Brandenburg Ministry of Culture and Science. Dr Alastair Mennie joins the staff until a replacement for Professor Weber can be found. The Centre says farewell to Simon Cole, director of the British Council in Berlin, and welcomes his successor Tony Andrews. Rolf Seelmann-Eggebert CBE gives the Keynote Lecture on "Continuity and Change: Jubilees in the British Monarchy". 12 students from 6 countries enrol for the class of 2000-2001. The Centre hosts a conference on 'Parliamentary Cultures: Britain and Germany'.

SPOTLIGHT

TEACHING IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Sonya Permiakova

(Blog, first published 18 June 2020 on the Centre's website)

When this blog post was written, it had been only two months since the official start of the lockdown in Berlin. Back in May 2020, Sonya Permiakova talked to Felicia Kompio, Dr Paolo Chiocchetti, Dr Sam McIntosh and Anisia Petcu, all academic staff members at the Centre for British Studies, to find out how they had been adapting to the challenges of digital teaching.

Concerns

Since the decision on distance learning was announced, it was clear there was virtually no time for a smooth transition. Paolo Chiocchetti, who joined the Centre in the winter semester 2019/2020, is currently teaching a class on 'British International Relations' and co-teaching an interdisciplinary course called 'Self, Society and Agency' with Felicia Kompio. His main concern was how best to balance direct contact with the students with accessibility: "Not all our students necessarily have a personal laptop, a stable broadband connection, a quiet space to join the conversation, and live in the Central European Time zone." During the first weeks of teaching we have seen students tuning into class in the middle of the night from their home countries where they are currently self-isolating, while a few others struggle to simply find a place to work in their student dorms. For all of us, another major concern was whether it is possible to incorporate elements of interactivity which are so essential to teaching. Furthermore, none of us had conceptualized an entire course for online teaching before, which meant it would inevitably be a learning experience for both lecturers and students alike.

Solutions

Even though all the lecturers are facing similar challenges, we came up with different digital solutions. Some, like Sam McIntosh and me, decided to record their lectures and add the interactive components elsewhere: for his course entitled 'The Coercive State', Sam complemented the lecture format with Zoom calls, where students are encouraged to discuss their reading materials and ask questions. Sam also managed to incorporate other interactive elements into his class: "I experimented a bit by getting the students to give presentations in one seminar and this worked really well with the students using power point by sharing their screens". I am teaching a class called 'Literary Films and Cinematic Novels', which is also structured around the pre-recorded lecture format and the occasional Zoom conference calls. In addition to that, I send out a weekly newsletter and encourage students to submit small check in exercises

“hidden” within each video lecture. For his teaching, Paolo also uses a broad range of available online platforms and applications: “My solution was to create self-study modules with all necessary resources, which can be comfortably studied at home and at the students’ own time and pace, supplemented by a variety of optional learning support tools (brief group sessions on Zoom, individual conversation on Zoom or Whatsapp, Moodle Forum, e-mail).”

What didn’t work?

As the first month of teaching online is behind us, it is fair to say that some things did not work as planned. For Sam, the biggest drawback turned out to be the lack of immediate response to the lectures which helps to navigate many elements of teaching: “It’s quite uninspiring lecturing to a computer and I miss the interaction that I normally have in the lectures. I also can’t pick up signs that a particular point I’m making might need more of an explanation and I just have to hope the students will bring their questions or queries to the seminar”. As all of us are currently working from home, figuring out how to divide the day into periods of work and rest has also become increasingly difficult. Felicia notes that she initially struggled with finding that balance: “I always separated my private life, which includes my PhD research, and my paid work. Now, this is no longer possible, and it took me a while to re-organise myself around that.” It appears that this new challenge is, above all else, a valuable exercise in flexibility.

Lessons for the future

As we ask ourselves what may the outcome of this experimental semester be – both for the Centre for British Studies, but also for the education system as a whole, it is essential to remember that moments of crisis affect different groups at a different pace. Paolo comments: “The Covid crisis is bound to deepen inequalities in society and in the university system, among students, the faculty and administrative staff. Some have lost their sources of income, are stuck at home juggling work and care duties, face technical and travel restrictions. The political authorities and the universities should do more to address these issues”. Anisia Petcu is facing, perhaps, most challenges among the teaching staff in the given circumstances: together with the current students she is re-imagining the event format of *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*. Anisia believes that this time will remind us that there are benefits to face-to-face teaching that no technology can offer: “I think it’s made us aware of how much more goes into the experience of studying and teaching – little chats with your colleagues before the seminar starts, a coffee in between two classes, the enjoyment you get from free, spontaneous, face-to-face debates. I think we’ve all come to appreciate these little things a little more”.

All of the teaching staff at the Centre are hoping someday to return to the “live” experience of those simple pleasures of face-to-face teaching. For now, however, both students and lecturers try to do their best to adapt to whatever comes our way.

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 term 2020/21. The lectures treat core issues of contract law from a comparative perspective with particular reference to EU, English, German and French law.

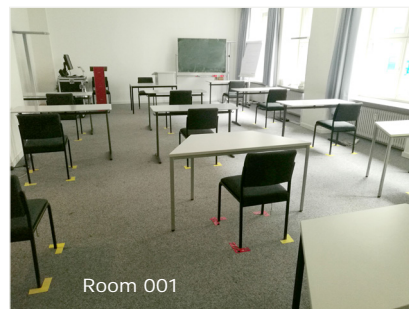
Social and Cultural History of Britain, 1689-1914 (Bachelor seminar)

WS 2020/21

This online seminar, which also included an introduction to databases and other online resources on British history, was a course for advanced undergraduate students at the Institute of Historical Studies. Through a variety of teaching formats, including lectures, virtual classroom discussions and students' individual work, the course covered key topics in British history, such as the Crown, parliamentarism and political participation, commercial production, the service industries and consumption, and the formation of differences between the working and middle classes. In contrast to existing textbooks on British history, which treat these themes as something *sui generis*, the seminar for the 18th and 19th centuries aimed to work out their interrelation.

Teaching Arrangements

Room 001: 5 persons
Room 102: 13 person
Room 104: 8 persons
Room 105: 26 persons



In order to be able to offer in-class teaching or personal meetings, the Centre had to arrange its teaching and conference rooms according to a spatial and hygiene concept prescribed by the university. The Centre now has four rooms, which can be used by 5-26 people.

RESEARCH

Oxford-Berlin Partnership

Our public Oxford-Berlin lecture with Prof Birke Häcker has been postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. While this annual public event had to be moved, behind the scenes, cooperation between Oxford and Berlin was as strong as ever. Following in the footsteps of

Prof Schlaeger and our Oxford fellow Prof Valentine Cunningham who co-supervised Gesa Stedman's PhD thesis, Sonya Permiakova successfully sought a second supervisor from Oxford, Prof Kate McLoughlin, Harris Manchester College. With Profs McLoughlin and Evangelista she now has two Oxford members on her future PhD viva committee. Stefano Evangelista co-edited the bilingual exhibition catalogue *Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond* with Gesa Stedman. This Oxford-Berlin and AHRC-funded project is the first and substantial step in an outreach project which will largely take place in 2021. The contributors to the catalogue from Oxford, Berlin, and London met digitally in the autumn of 2020 to discuss their key findings, in order to avoid overlap, and to encourage cross-institutional debate. Afterwards, everyone immediately set to writing their chapters and, unusually for academics, delivered them on time. Image hunting, editing, overseeing the translation, as well as copy-editing went on at a great pace. During the same period in late 2020, radio producer and lecturer Dr Clarisse Cossais coached members of the GBZ staff in podcast production which led to Sonya Permiakova, Anisia Petcu, and Gesa Stedman writing the script for the podcast "Happy in Berlin" which will coincide with the Oxford-Berlin exhibition of the same title. The fruits of this cooperation will be available to the public in 2021 but both Stefano Evangelista



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES

2001

The evaluation report on the structure, the degree course and performance of the Centre is published. It approves all the major structural decisions taken so far and supports our plans for the future. The Mercator Foundation makes a generous grant for students of our MBS. This year the Centre picks 24 students from 10 different countries. Professor Weber returns to the Centre, but decides to take early retirement in 2002. Our obligatory work placement scheme in Britain starts successfully. Our first masters are given a farewell. Lord Hurd, former British foreign secretary, opens our academic year with a Keynote Lecture on 'European Foreign Policy after September 11th.' The proceedings of our third British-German Conference, *Parliamentary Cultures* are published.

and Gesa Stedman were able to draw on prior connections and the full resources of institutions at Humboldt-Universität and Oxford, most notably The Oxford Centre for Research in the Humanities. We are therefore hopeful – pandemic permitting – that the actual public launch of the project will proceed in the summer of 2021 as planned.

British History and Society Research Colloquium

11-12 February

In the last week of the winter semester, Professor Eisenberg organised another British History and Society Colloquium. It was held as a block event and, as always, had a workshop character, i.e. ongoing work was presented and participants were explicitly



invited to discuss their source, method and presentation problems or successes. Since these challenges occur at all levels of research experience, the spectrum of participants ranged from Masters candidates to postdoctoral students. The out-of-town speakers included Will Studdert (now University of Hamburg), who presented on “The BBC German Service, its East German Audience and the Stasi”, and Juliane Clegg (University of Potsdam) with her project on “Great Britain and European Monetary Policy in the 1980s”.

Research Colloquium: Professor Eisenberg offering MA students, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers a platform to discuss work-in-progress

Pandemics, War, Literature: The First-Ever Virtual Meeting of the Research Group Writing 1900

2 October

100 years ago, in an uncanny parallel to our current predicament, the world suffered from the ‘Spanish flu’ pandemic. Virginia Woolf was one author who charted the wave-like ups and down of both World War I and the flu which dominated the war’s turbulent aftermath. The years after the end of WWI, rather than the war itself, was the focal point of the first-ever virtual meeting of the international research network Writing 1900 (www.writing1900.org). In

preparation of a special issue of the Journal for European Studies, participants presented their papers-in-progress, each with a respondent to kick off the discussion. Although it is more fun meeting in person, the workshop-style session went surprisingly well, and everyone found it productive. The volume is well on its way to being ready for publication this autumn, but everyone agreed that the overall coherence of the special issue would profit from renewed discussion.

Apart from the presentations and responses, we had a general seminar-style discussion based on two recent publications by historians on WWI and/or its aftermath. It emerged that writing about war is never simple, not even a hundred years after its official end in November 1918. For one thing, the war didn't end as quickly in some areas of the world, e.g. in Eastern Europe. For another, its legacy was far-reaching and had a heavy impact on the inter-war years which followed WWI, especially if one adopts a more global approach. The latter was represented by two speakers at the meeting, which focussed on the importance of the war effort by Caribbean soldiers and their treatment on the one hand, and on a comparison of Turkish and English war poetry on the other. Both the different temporalities of the war in different parts of the world, and different fall-outs, including literary outcomes, were discussed.

How difficult it was to rebuild networks across national borders was another topic which several papers concentrated on, but also on aesthetic and formal aspects of the (impossibility of) representation of war and its aftermath. English writers abroad often indirectly commented on home affairs – not always overtly – and thus one can read their interventions from a postcolonial as well as from a national perspective.

The workshop was a follow-up event from the large DFG-funded conference Writing Europe 1918 – 2020 which took place at the Centre in 2018.



Top, from left: Philip Bullock, Ana Parejo Vadillo, Catherine Toal, Naomi Toth, Laura Scuriatti, Richard Hibbitt; Right, from top: Gesa Stedman, Stefano Evangelista, Jana Gohrisch, Claudia Olk, Sonya Permiakova

Current Research Projects

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann

F.A. Mann (1907-1991)

Readers may remember from previous Annual Reports that in 2014, Anne Kriken Mann donated to the HU some 10,000 personal documents relating to Francis 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. These documents include letters exchanged with the majority of the senior judiciary of the UK, many internationally leading academics and legal practitioners, well-known business people and politicians. Francis Mann's law firm Herbert Smith Freehills donated some additional 2,500 documents in 2015 and 2016.

In 2020, Professor Dannemann and Dr Jason Allen embarked on a DFG financed three year research project, in cooperation with partners and other researchers from the Humboldt-Universität (including Professor Eisenberg and Christoph König for the Centre), the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, the Max Planck Institute for comparative public law and international law, and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

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 currently under preparation.

Research Group on the Law of Digital Services

Prof Dannemann and the co-reporters presented a fully revised set of Model Rules for Online Platforms to the Annual Conference of the European Law Institute in Vienna, 4-6 September 2019. These Model Rules were adopted by ELI members early in 2020.

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.



This year's Königswinter conference in September: masks and keeping your distance are imperative

Further Activities

Conference Papers and Lectures

“The Oxford University Comparative Law Forum 20 Years On”, Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford, 21 Feb * Presentation of Ch. 4, Conflicts in relation to private law powers, Workshop on ‘Lionel Smith, Stepping Outside of Ourselves: How we Act for Others in Private Law’, McGill University, Montreal, 15 Sep * Keynote “Open Access, gute wissenschaftliche Praxis und Urheberrecht”, 3rd Junior Management Science Conference, Joachim-Herz-Stiftung, Hamburg, 17-18 Sep



From left: Professors Birke Häcker, Lucia Zedner, Simon Whittaker and John Bell at the 20th anniversary of the OU Comparative Law Forum

Other Conference Attendances

Conference on ‘Comparative Corona Contract Law’, Universität Tartu and Universität Warwick, 22 May * Conference on ‘Rule of Law (During and Post-Covid-19)’, European Law Institute, 18 June * 70th Königswinter British-German Conference, 24-26 Sep * Conference on ‘British-European Relations Post-Brexit: A Legal Kaleidoscope’, Institute of European and Comparative Law, Oxford University, 21 Sep * Conference on ‘Last call for a Brexit deal? The state of play at the crunch time of Brexit negotiations’, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, 21 Oct * Chaired the ‘Digital Law Debate: the new Commission proposal for a Digital Service Act’, Digital Interest Group of the European Law Institute, 17 Dec

Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Professor Eisenberg took advantage of the banishment to the “home office” during the Covid-19 lockdown and the cancellation of several planned events to advance her manuscript on “The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism”, which is now well on its way to completion.

2002

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, Reader in Comparative Law at the University of Oxford and Fellow of Worcester College, is appointed to the law chair at the Centre from January 2003. The Centre receives an extension of the grants scheme by the Mercator Foundation and the DAAD agrees to support our students during their three-month placements in Britain. The academic year’s opening Keynote Lecture is delivered by Graham Jefcoate, the new director general of the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, on “Visions of Future Libraries and Librarians”. This year the Centre takes in 23 students from 11 different countries. The proceedings of the conference on *Charity Law and Change* are published.

Prof Dr Gesa Stedman

Gesa Stedman's collective project focusing on European exchange in the wake of World War I will be published by the *Journal for European Studies* in 2021, with Philip Bullock (Oxford) and Sonya Permiakova (GBZ) as co-editors, and numerous members of the

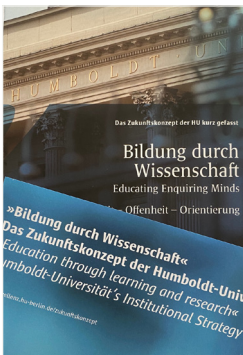


Countess Evelyn Blücher, an English Catholic who spent the First World War in Berlin

Writing 1900 network as contributors. She continued her research on Anglophone visitors to Berlin in the late 19th and early 20th century, which she will present together with Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) in an exhibition at Literaturhaus Berlin and in the foyer of HU in 2021. The catalogue for "Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, The 1920s and Beyond" is currently being prepared for publication with Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen. Gesa Stedman also continued to write reviews and blog articles on current literary events for *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope* and published two articles on the problematic place postcolonial novels occupy in the UK literary field. The outcomes of the lecture series on imagined economies in summer 2017 were published by transcript in March 2020, in a book of the same title, co-edited with Jessica Fischer. Gesa Stedman also co-edited a book with Marius Guderjan and Hugh Mackay, entitled *Contested Britain. Brexit, Agency and Austerity*, which was published by Bristol University Press in spring 2020. Finally, Gesa Stedman has been asked to revisit her project on cultural exchange between France and England in the 17th century with an article on Bossuet's funeral oration for Queen Henrietta Maria, the French Catholic wife of Charles I.

Prof Dr Jürgen Schlaeger, CBE

Jürgen 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. The book



Bildung durch Wissenschaft. Vom Nutzen forschenden Lernens was published in January 2020. An article on “Do we need a Eudaimonic Turn in Literary Studies” will be included in a collection of essays on “The Value of Literature” to be published in 2021.

Dr Jason Allen, LL.M

Jason Grant Allen commenced his role as joint Principal Investigator (with Prof Dannemann) of the project F.A. Mann and his Contribution to English, German, European and International Law in January. This project, based at the GBZ with the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (London) and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History (Frankfurt) as cooperating institutions, will continue until December 2022. Unfortunately, the first Project Workshop (slated for June) had to be postponed due to the global pandemic, but the group held a very successful series of workshops based around the main themes in the project to get the ball rolling. This year was a particularly active one in terms of research communication and policy impact. From August 2019 to September 2020, Dr Allen was a Co-Investigator on the ESRC-funded project “Legal and Economic Conceptions of Money” at the Queen Mary University London Centre for Commercial Law Studies, under the umbrella of ‘Rebuilding Macroeconomics’. With this project, Dr Allen engaged with the central banking and policy community, for example holding seminars and webinars with the Bank of England, Federal Reserve Bank of NY, and the International Monetary Fund. Dr Allen also taught on the Fintech and Regulatory Innovation executive education course, a tutor-led online programme to bring senior policymakers and regulators up to speed on emerging financial technologies. The course is offered by the Cambridge Judge Business School in partnership with several international organisations, including the Commonwealth and the UK Department for International Development, and has seen over 500 participants from central banks, securities regulators, and ministries of finance in about 100 countries. He was invited to join in two UNIDROIT working groups, Project Study



Jason introducing guest lecturer Professor Iain McLean in February

2003

The master's degree course is now formally accredited. 21 students are selected from 11 different countries for the class of 2003-2005. Students and staff go on an excursion to Wolfsburg to see the exhibition “From Blast to Freeze: 20th Century British Art”. Professor Ansgar Nünning opens the academic year with a Keynote Lecture on “The Invention of an Empress: Queen Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees as Paradigms for the Study of Victorian Memorial Cultures”. Kathryn Board takes over as Director of the British Council in Germany.

LXXXII on “Digital Assets” and Private Law and Study LXXVI B on “Best Practices of Effective Enforcement”, as well as the Advisory Board of the European Law Institute project on “Access to Digital Assets”. The year was also a busy one for publishing, with a raft of papers and book chapters published and in the pipeline. Dr Allen submitted the manuscript of his monograph “The Supervisory Jurisdiction over Non-Statutory Executive Powers”, under contract with the CUP for the *Cambridge Studies in Constitutional Law*, and edited a collection of papers on “Smart Legal Contracts in Theory and Practice” with contributions from leading scholars, practitioners, and judges primarily from the UK and Commonwealth.

Dr Paolo Chiochetti

In 2020, Paolo worked on the impact of Brexit on British politics, with particular attention to the rise of ‘Brexit identities’ (Leavers and Remainers) and the December 2019 general election, as well as on the *longue durée* of the British imperial presence in Iraq. He presented his work at the Annual Meeting of the Humboldt Foundation (invited) and at the Annual Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research and he is currently working on a series of journal articles on these topics. He also continued to serve as secretary of the PSA-IPSG specialist group, country expert for the Varieties of Democracy Project (University of Gothenburg), and peer-reviewer for international journals (European Political Science Review, Nations and Nationalism, Political Studies Review, Government and Opposition). Paolo’s research plans for 2021 focus on the assessment of examples, models, and scenarios of differentiated European integration, including post-Brexit EU-UK relations, and on the drafting of a chapter on ‘The divided left in the UK: class, ideology, and partisanship after Brexit’ in a forthcoming book edited by Gohrlich and Stedman for BUP.

Dr Marius Guderjan

For most of 2020, Marius was not working at the GBZ but on research leave funded by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG). He was an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Stirling and visited Edinburgh, Cardiff and London to conduct a series of interviews with members of the British, Scottish, and Welsh Governments and Parliaments. He also participated in events of the Centre on Constitutional Change and the Wales Governance Centre, and he presented his work to the Territorial Research Group at Edinburgh University and at a workshop on ‘Brexit and Territorial Politics’ at Cardiff University. Due to Covid-19, however,



London Tube in March 2020: empty platforms

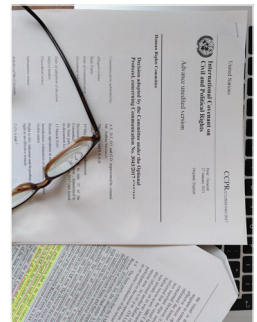
Marius had to return to Berlin in March and to cancel his plans to travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland. The rest of his interviews were held via phone or conference call, and he used his leave to analyse his data and to write up his findings on the intergovernmental relations within the UK. Together with Tom Vehelst from Ghent University, Marius also finalised and submitted the monograph "Local Government in the European Union: Completing the Integration Cycle?" to Palgrave Macmillan.



Senedd Cymru:
The Welsh Parliament

Dr Sam McIntosh

This year Sam has continued to work on his research project 'Refugee Lives Matter: Protecting the human rights of migrants and refugees through international and regional obligations to investigate deaths', funded by a research grant from the Volkswagen Foundation under the highly competitive 'Original Isn't it?' funding line. The research is looking at the implications of international and regional investigative obligations when it comes to the deaths of unsettled migrants and refugees within or close to the borders of Council of Europe member States. All going well, the project report will be published in early 2021. As with lots of people this year, some of Sam's research activities were frustrated somewhat by the pandemic. In particular, Sam had to cancel a conference, workshop and roundtable on issues pertaining to his research project at relatively short notice. It is hoped that these events can be rearranged for in-person attendance in 2021. If not, they will have to be held in an online format. However, the hope is to avoid this if possible, not least because one of the purposes of the events is to give early-career researchers on migration and refugee law the opportunity to travel to Berlin and present their research to, and network with, a diverse range of academics, civil society representatives and legal practitioners. Sam has also been in discussions with researchers at other European institutions who are interested in contributing to a future and related research project that will involve multiple partners.



A recent Human Rights Committee decision means a chapter re-write

2004

In May, Sir Peter Torry, the new British Ambassador, visits the Centre. For the class 2004-2006 23 students from 14 different countries are admitted. The Centre organises a conference on 'Metamorphosis – Structures of Cultural Transformations', the proceedings of which were published in the REAL series. The Key-note Lecture is given by Lord Roger of Earlsferry on "A Far Cry from Mommsen: Academics, Politicians and Judges in Contemporary Britain". The Centre writes a 10th Anniversary Report looking back on its achievements in the last decade.



Member of the DFG F.A. Mann research team:
Christoph König

Christoph König

Christoph started in January, and is doctoral researcher in the DFG-funded project on F.A. Mann. His thesis has the working title “F.A. Mann (1907-1991)” and is envisioned as a biography with a special focus on contextualising the extensive literary estate that resides at the Humboldt Archive. Due to Covid-19 his research has been limited to the part of the archive that is digitally accessible and the literature side of the project. Christoph has presented excerpts of his research on multiple digital conferences. In February he was keynote speaker at the Juristische Gesellschaft in Munich with a talk on “Making better lawyers? Law Clinics und Clinical Legal Education in Deutschland”. At the same time he has been holding digital lectures in German property law and company and corporation law at the universities of Breslau and Erfurt.



“Save the badgers and cull the Tories”, Bristol, College Green, 2017

Felicia Kompio

Felicia continued to work on her PhD thesis on urban political participation in early 19th-century Europe. Bristol, Brussels, and Leipzig, like many other European cities, saw riotous outbreaks in the months following the French July Revolution in 1830. For both protesters and authorities, those events brought up a central question: is this a revolution? Felicia investigates the events in the three cities in order to gain insight into changing practices, their perceptions and both the local and European discourses accompanying these processes. Her PhD project thus combines a microhistorical approach and the European perspective as well as urban history and the history of revolutions. It is supervised by Professor Thomas Mergel (Department of History, Humboldt-Universität) and Professor Christiane Eisenberg.

Sofia Permiakova

Sofia (Sonya) Permiakova is currently working on the final chapter of her PhD thesis on British women’s poetry of the First and the Second World Wars, which she expects to submit in 2021. Early in 2020, Sonya joined Professor Philip Bullock (University of Oxford) and Professor Gesa Stedman in their editorial work on the special issue for the *Journal of European Studies* on World War I and its aftermath, which will be published in November 2021. In the summer semester 2020, Sonya was invited to present a paper at a conference devoted to the works of Hope Mirrlees at Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, and to give a lecture on Irish women’s war poetry at the University of Limerick, both of which got postponed

due to the current Covid-19 crisis. In November 2020, Sonya also worked on a paper with the preliminary title "From the 1920s to the 2020s: The Myth of Weimar Berlin in Contemporary British Art, Music and Literature", which will be published as a part of an exhibition catalogue co-edited and co-curated by Professor Stedman and Professor Stefano Evangelista (Oxford) for their exhibition focusing on British Writers in Berlin in the early 20th century.

Visiting Researcher

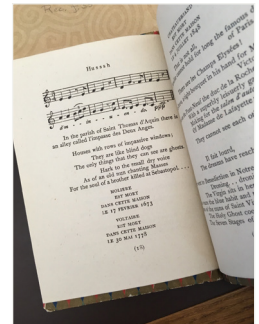
Prof Dr Patricia Springborg

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 produced two commissioned pieces, in various stages of preparation for print, 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 Social History at the University of Oslo, is a visiting researcher attached to Professor Eisenberg's chair. He intends to make the best use of the Berlin archive and libraries in order to pursue his project on 'How much more than a Job? Rethinking Creative Labour in the Cultural Industries'.



"Paris: A Poem" by Hope Mirrlees, original edition from 1920 (picture taken at the Bodleian Library in Oxford)

2005

The Centre celebrates the 10th year of its existence with a festive event in the Senate Hall of HU. Welcome addresses are given by Professor Ischinger, HU Vice President, Dr Klaus Scharioth from the German Foreign Office, Sir Christopher Mallaby, the chair of our Advisory Board, and the student representative Elena Schmitz. Sir Christopher is made 'Honorary Fellow of the Centre', and former Ambassador to Germany Sir Paul Lever takes over as chair of the Advisory Board. For the class of 2005-2007 26 students are selected from 16 different countries. The annual Keynote Lecture, inaugurating the academic year, is given by the distinguished evolutionary biologist Professor Richard Dawkins, Oxford. In his talk he asks: "Is Evolution Predictable?".

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.

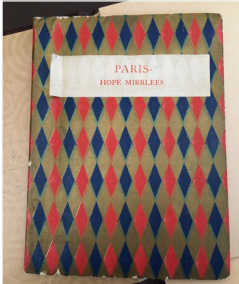
Sonya Permiakova: "Women on War, War on Women: British Women's Poetry of the First and the Second World Wars in the Context of Contemporary Commemorative Culture – Exclusion, Reception and Re-conceptualization".

Judith Robinson: "Literature Festivals in the UK: A Field Study" (working title).

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: "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).



Sonya took this picture of Helen Mirlees' poem "Paris" at the Bodleian Library in Oxford

Law Department

Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann

Petrit Elshani: "State Liability in ICSID Case Law: Grounds of Justification".

Arne Gutsche: has submitted a PhD thesis on "Conceptions of Contract as a Question of National Identity".

Christoph König: "F.A. Mann (1909-1991)".

Kevin Schmauß: "Rechtsvergleichende Betrachtung der Richterauswahl für das Bundesverfassungsgericht der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und dem Supreme Court des Vereinigten Königreiches von Großbritannien und Nordirland".

Ian Smith: "Access to Financial Justice for Victims of Commercial Fraud".

Katharina Steinbrück: successfully defended her PhD thesis on “Changing Consumer Law in the United Kingdom after Brexit? A Study in Laws governing Consumer Credit and Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts in the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway and Switzerland”.

Tetjana Trachuk: “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”.



Felicia introducing
‘Monday Lecturer’
Dr Iain Channing

Graduate School of British Studies

The members of the graduate school were active in numerous ways. Once again, Melanie Neumann shared her research findings with the current group of MA British Studies students in the context of the course “Britons in Berlin”. Florian Pauls also gave a talk in this context, sharing his expertise on the presence of the British army in Berlin after World War II. Sonya Permiakova gave a presentation on Hope Mirlees’ poem “Paris” at the follow-up workshop of World War I and Its Aftermath, which was held online on 2 Oc-

2006

For the class of 2006-2008 25 students from different 13 countries are selected. The Keynote Lecture is given by Lord Patton, former Governor of Hong Kong and European Commissioner for external affairs, then Chancellor of Oxford University, on higher education and research in the 21st Century. The Centre hosts a workshop on cultural industries in Britain and elsewhere which provided a platform for interdisciplinary debate among British and German academics, as well as journalists and policy makers. As the University has to sell the building in Jägerstraße 10/11, which had housed the Centre very comfortably for 10 years, to the Federal Government, a move to other premises is necessary.

tober 2020. Since then, she has been busy co-editing the special issue of the same title, to be published in *The Journal of European Studies* later in 2021. She also presented her key findings on contemporary British artists and writers in Berlin at the online authors' meeting in the autumn of 2020 when all contributors to the catalogue "Happy in Berlin? English Writers in the City, The 1920s and Beyond" met virtually to discuss their findings.

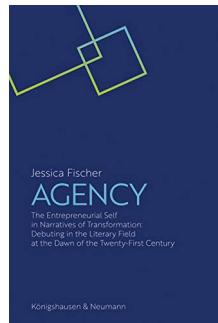
Jessica Fischer and Melanie Neumann have published their respective theses. Melanie's thesis on British and Irish migration to Berlin was published in the Irish-German Studies series by WVT, whereas Jessica published her book on the entrepreneurial self in contemporary British Asian novels with Königshaus & Neumann. Melanie is currently working as the PA of the new Irish Ambassador in Berlin, and as the Irish community officer, while Jessica completed editing a collection of essays on imagined economies, has published a number of articles, has undertaken teaching jobs for Universität Rostock and works as programme director Communication, Culture & Management at Zeppelin-Universität Friedrichshafen.

Their example, we hope, will be followed by three more successful completions in 2021, as Jennifer Jacob, Sonya Permiakova, and Anna Schoon plan to submit their theses this year. Finally, we welcome Judith Robinson, a former MA British Studies graduate, currently a lecturer at Bath Spa University in the UK, who will write her PhD thesis on Literary Festivals in the UK.

Publications by Members of the Graduate School

FISCHER, J. *Agency. The Entrepreneurial Self in Narratives of Transformation: Debuting in the Literary Field at the Dawn of the Twenty-First-Century.* Würzburg, Königshausen & Neumann,

2020, available at <https://verlag-koenigshausen-neumann.de/templates/xtc4/img/978382607206-2.pdf>.



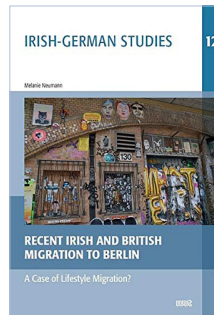
---, and G. Stedman (eds.). *Imagined Economies – Real Fictions. New Perspectives on Economic Thinking in Great Britain.* Bielefeld, transcript, 2020.

---, G. Christinidis, and F. Hofmeister (eds.). *Britian beyond Brexit.* Special issue of *Hard Times Magazine*, vol. 104, no.1, 2020.

---. "Against All Odds: The Abject Subject 'Making it' in Post-Crisis Britain." *Postcolonial Cultural Studies*, ed. by J. Gohrisch, E. Grünkemeier and H. Pardey. Special issue of *Anglistik. International Journal of English Studies*, vol. 31, no. 3, 2020.

NEUMANN, M. *Recent Irish and British Migration to Berlin: A Case of Lifestyle Migration?* Irish-German Studies, Trier, WVT, 2020.

SCHOON, A. "Literaturpreise und europäische Integration – >Win-Win< für Literatur und Politik?" *Literaturpreise. Geschichte, Theorie und Praxis*, ed. by D. Borghardt, S. Maaß, and A. Pontzen, Würzburg, Königshausen & Neumann, 2020, pp. 187-206.



Mind Your Writing, Dr Christian Wymann

In February, staff and PhD students had the opportunity to take part in a writing workshop with Christian Wymann (Bern). The one-day workshop covered time management strategies as well as several aspects of the writing process. Following Wymann's philosophy to provide his students with a tool box to face their individual writing challenges, the participants learned different writing formats, how to set achievable goals, and how to defend one's writing time. All participants agreed that the workshop was a success, not least because it provided a forum to exchange views and experiences on one of the central aspects of our profession: writing.

2007

In April, the Centre moves to its new premises in Mohrenstraße 60, two blocks away from Jägerstraße in Berlin-Mitte. After another round of assessments of 'regional institutes' in the Berlin university system, set up by the city government, the Centre takes the opportunity to have a careful look at its achievements so far and its goals for the future during a three-day brainstorming meeting outside Berlin. The director's retirement is due in 2008, and as the HU has just initiated a special programme for professorships to be filled, before they become vacant, by excellent young female applicants, the Centre is able to bring Gesa Stedman back as replacement for Professor Schlaeger from April 2008. This year we select 25 students from 15 different countries. British MP Ben Bradshaw is made Honorary Fellow. Sir Paul Lever gives a lecture about "Britain and Germany: Which is Better Governed?"

Publications

DANNEMANN, G. *German Civil Code Vol. 1, Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (BGB) Article-by-Article Commentary: Books 1-3: §§ 1-1296.* Co-edited with R. Schulze; J. Watson, Assistant Editor, C.H. Beck/Nomos, München/Baden-Baden, 2020.

---. "Judges and Legislators as Comparative Lawyers." *Festschrift für Christine Windbichler zum 70. Geburtstag*, ed. by G. Bachmann, S. Grundmann, K. Krolop, and A. Mengel, de Gruyter, 2020, pp. 19-32.

---. "The EU Model Rules on Online Platforms." *9 Journal of European Consumer and Market Law (EuCML)*, 2020, pp. 61-70 (together with Ch. Busch and H. Schulte-Nölke).

---. "Gewinnhaftung und Schadensersatz." *Deutsches, österreichisches und internationales Schadensersatzrecht. Festschrift für Christian Huber zum 65. Geburtstag*, ed. by K.-H. Danzl, B. Dauner-Lieb, and A. Wittwer, 2020, 67ff.

---, together with Ch. Bush and H. Schulte-Nölke. "Digital Platforms and COVID-19." *Coronavirus and the Law in Europe. Examining coronavirus-related legislation and its consequences in European states*, ed. by E. Hondius et al., available at <https://www.intersentiaonline.com/bundle/coronavirus-and-the>.

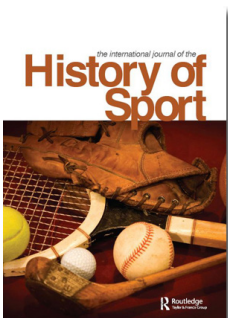
---. Review of *Englisch als Vertragssprache. Fallstricke und Fehlerquellen*, by Stefan Vogenauer and Volker Triebel, Beck, 2018. *Rebels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und Internationales Privatrecht*, vol. 84, 2020, pp. 941-945.

Continued as General Editor of the *Oxford University Comparative Law Forum* and of the *German Law Archive*.

EISENBERG, Ch. "The Rise and Decline of Doux Commerce: Change of Experience and Change of Perception." *Imagined Economies – Real Fictions. New Perspectives on Economic Thinking in Great Britain*, ed. by Jessica Fischer and Gesa Stedman, Bielefeld, transcript, 2020, pp. 35-54, available at <https://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-4881-2/imagined-economies-real-fictions/>.

---. "Capitalist Horse Sense: Sports Betting and Options Trading during the English Financial Revolution (1690-1740)." *The International Journal of the History of Sport: Horse Racing in Global-Historical Perspective*, vol. 37, no. 3-4, 2020, pp. 323-336, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/09523367.2020.1755269>.

---. "Weder gerecht noch leistungsgerecht, sondern Sport. Über die Vergütung professioneller Athleten (und Athletinnen). Ein



Kommentar zum Beitrag von Alexander Dilger und Katrin Scharfenkamp 'Leistungsgerechte Vergütung im Fußball ist geschlechtergerecht.'" *Sport und Gesellschaft*, vol. 17, 2020, H. 3, pp. 303-317, available at <https://doi.org/10.1515/sug-2020-0019>.

---. Review of *Fußball in England und Deutschland von 1961 bis 2000. Vom Verlierer der Wohlstandsgesellschaft zum Vorreiter der Globalisierung*, by Hannah Jonas, Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019. *Neue Politische Literatur*, vol. 65, no. 3, 2020, pp. 559-562, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42520-020-00303-5>.

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---, and Jessica Fischer. "Introduction." *Imagined Economies – Real Fictions. New Perspectives on Economic Thinking in Great Britain*, Bielefeld, transcript, 2020, pp. 7-15.

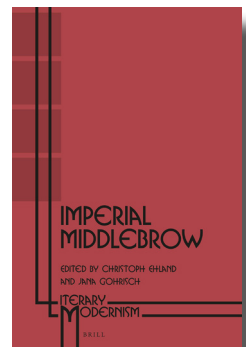
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---, Marius Guderjan, and Hugh Mackay. "Introduction." *Contested Britain. Brexit, Austerity and Agency*, Bristol, Bristol UP, 2020, pp. 1-15.

---, Marius Guderjan, and Hugh Mackay. "Conclusion." *Contested Britain. Brexit, Austerity and Agency*. Bristol, Bristol UP, 2020, pp. 233-245.

---. "Sidelining Racism and Discrimination – Recent Black and British Fiction." *Imperial Middlebrow (Literary Modernism 7)*, ed. by Ch. Ehland and J. Gohrlich, Leiden etc., Brill, 2020, pp. 206-217.

---. "From No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference to A Pinch of Nom, From Audiobooks to Brexit: A Look Back and a Look Ahead." *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope*, 2 February 2020, available at <http://literaryfield.org/overview-2019-and-look-ahead/>.



2008

At a house-warming party in our new premises, the British Ambassador Sir Michael Arthur wishes the Centre good luck and praises the role it plays in building and strengthening bridges between Britain and Germany. Our Master in British Studies is re-accredited with outstanding results. In October, 26 students from 17 different countries start the course as the class of 2008-2009. Professor Stedman arrives to take over the chair for 'Literature and Culture'. The Keynote Lecture is given by Jonathan Mance, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, on "Britain's Emerging Constitution?". After his retirement, Professor Schlaeager is asked by the university to coordinate the preparations for HU's bicentenary in 2010.

---, and Birgit Neumann. "Innovation and Constraint: The UK Literary Field from a Cultural-Studies and Postcolonial Perspective." *Anglistik*, vol. 31, no. 3, 2020, *Focus on Postcolonial Cultural Studies*, focus editors: Jana Gohrisch, Ellen Grünkemeier, and Hannah Pardey, pp. 89-105.



ALLEN, J.G., Michel Rauchs, Apolline Blandin, and Keith Bear, eds. *Legal and Regulatory Considerations for Digital Assets*. CCAF, October 2020, available at <https://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/faculty-research/centres/alternative-finance/publications/legal-and-regulatory-considerations-for-digital-assets/>.

---, and R.M. Lastra. "Border Problems: Mapping the Third Border." *Modern Law Review*, vol. 83, no. 3, 2020, p. 505.

---. "Imagining Money." *Imagined Economies – Real Fictions. New Perspectives on Economic Thinking in Great Britain*, ed. by Jessica Fischer and Gesa Stedman, Bielefeld, transcript, 2020, pp. 79-100.

---, Michael Kumhof, Will Bateman, R.M. Lastra, Simon Gleeson, and S.T. Omarova. "Central Bank Money: Liability, Asset, or Equity of the Nation?" *Cornell Legal Studies Research Paper*, November 14, 2020, pp. 20-46, available at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3730608> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3730608>.

---. Review of *The Legal Concept of Money*, by Simon Gleeson, Oxford University Press, 2019. *Edinburgh Law Review*, vol. 24, no. 1, 2020, p. 158.

GUDERJAN, M., Hugh Mackay, and Gesa Stedman. *Contested Britain: Brexit, Austerity and Agency*. Bristol University Press, 2020.

---, Hugh Mackay, and Gesa Stedman. "Introduction." *Contested Britain. Brexit, Austerity and Agency*, Bristol, Bristol UP, 2020, pp. 1-15.

---, and Adrian Wilding. "Brexit Populism: Disenfranchisement and Agency." *Contested Britain: Brexit, Austerity and Agency*, ed. by Marius Guderjan, Gesa Stedman, and Hugh Mackay, Bristol University Press, 2020.

---. "The (dis-)integration of intergovernmental relations." Commentary on *UK in Changing Europe*, 28 February 2020, available at <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-dis-integration-of-intergovernmental-relations/>.

---, Hugh Mackay, and Gesa Stedman. "Johnson's exclusive populism in an increasingly contested Britain." *On Transforming*



Society, 24 March 2020, available at <https://www.transformingsociety.co.uk/2020/03/24/johnsons-exclusive-populism-in-an-increasingly-contested-britain/>.

KÖNIG, Ch., G. Dannemann, F. Stamm. "The Correspondence of Frederick Alexander Mann (1907-1991)", *British Institute of International and Comparative Law*, 2020.

SPOTLIGHT

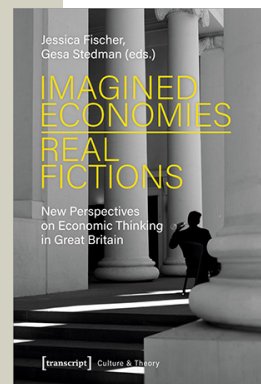
PUBLICATIONS: A SELECTION

Imagined Economies – Real Fictions New Perspectives on Economic Thinking in Great Britain

Gesa Stedman and Jessica Fischer (eds), Bielefeld, transcript, 2020

This edited collection developed from the lecture series 'Imagined Economies' which took place at the Centre for British Studies in 2018. Apart from the editors, the following scholars contributed to this volume: Jason Allen, Rebecca Bramall, Olivier Butzbach, John Clarke, Christiane Eisenberg, Jana Gohrisch, Melissa Kennedy, and Luke Martell.

The way we conceptualise the economy and ourselves as homo economicus has profound consequences for our lives. The contributions to this anthology take debates about the financial crisis, about recent austerity measures or about the Brexit referendum a step further. A common denominator of these dynamics are underlying



2009

The MBS celebrates its 10th anniversary with laudations by former British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Paul Lever, the HU Vice President, Prof Nagel, and MBS alumna Jeanette Streier: all praising this unique interdisciplinary and international course with its practice-oriented approach. The event was also used to launch 'The Friends of Centre for British Studies'. 27 students from 16 different countries are selected for the class of 2009-2011. Acclaimed author Rachel Seiffert, who stays at the Centre for a week, is our first-ever 'Humboldt Writer in Residence'. The Keynote Lecture, opening the academic year, is given by Baroness Ruth Deech on 'Ethics and Embryos: National Comparisons.'

ideas of »the economy«. Each author identifies a facet of Britain's imagined economies. They connect seemingly separate fields such as finance and fiction in order to better understand current political changes. In addition, the book offers an urgently needed interdisciplinary view on the performative power of economic thought – and in this respect moves far beyond merely British perspectives.

Contested Britain: Brexit, Austerity and Agency

Marius Guderjan, Hugh Mackay, and Gesa Stedman (eds),
Bristol University Press, 2020

Published in March 2020, this book was the result of a series of workshops and conference of the Berlin-Britain Research Network and it features chapters by international academics associated with the GBZ, including our guest lecturers Paul Carmichael, Carlo Morelli, Steven Truxal, and Adrian Wilding.

The book offers a powerful and distinctive analysis of how the politics of the UK and the lived experience of its citizens have been reframed in the first decades of the 21st century. It does so by bringing together carefully articulated case studies with theoretically informed discussions of the relationship between austerity, Brexit and the rise of populist politics, as well as highlighting the emergence of a range of practices, institutions and politics that challenge the hegemony of austerity discourses.

Contested Britain mobilises notions of agency to help understand the role of austerity as a fundamental cause of Brexit.

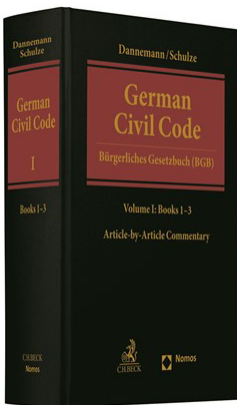
Investigating the social, economic, political, and cultural constraints and opportunities arising from a person's position in society allows us to explain the link between austerity politics and the vote for Brexit.

Importantly, the book goes beyond traditional disciplinary approaches to develop more interdisciplinary engagements, based on broad understandings of cultural studies as well as drawing on insights from political science, sociology, economics, geography and law. It uses comparative material from the regions of England and from the devolved territories of the UK, and explores the profound differ-



ences of geography, generation, gender, 'race' and class. As Brexit and Covid-19 have exacerbated the existing disparities in people's experiences and agency, the contestation of Britain continues to be a topic of immediate social and academic relevance. We therefore hope to enable future discussions and analysis at the GBZ and beyond.

German Civil Code Volume I = Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (BGB)



Gerhard Dannemann and Reiner Schulze (eds), C.H. Beck, Nomos, 2020

This is the first commentary on the German Civil Code in the English language. It includes the full text of the German Civil Code in both the German original and English translation, and commentaries on all provisions. This first volume, which appeared in August 2020, covers Books 1 (General Part), 2 (Law of Obligations) and 3 (Property Law). A second volume covering Books 4 (Family Law) and 5 (Inheritance Law) is presently under preparation.

The Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch forms the cornerstone of German private law and has since its enactment in 1900 attracted considerable interest outside the German speaking world: as a model or reference point in legal reform, as a focal point of comparative law scholarship, and as essential primary source for the law of obligations, property, family and inheritance law through the application of German law to cross-border legal relationships.

The German Civil Code has been translated into various languages. However, due to the particular structure and the thick conceptual language employed by the BGB, these translations

2010

Ben Bradshaw MP joins the Centre's Advisory Board. For the class 2010-2012 29 students from 13 different countries are selected. Among the public highlights are a lecture by Professor Hermione Lee, President of Wolfson College, Oxford, and the Keynote Lecture by Professor Sir David Cannadine on "Winston Churchill: Anglo-America and the 'Special Relationship' in Historical Perspective". Former director Professor Jürgen Schlaeger is made Honorary Fellow of the Centre and is awarded a CBE by the Queen.

remain difficult to access for and difficult to explain to non-German speakers and generally those who have not been trained in German law. Moreover, more than a century of case law, and decades of EU legislative acts and judgments have developed and sometimes overgrown the original statute, with only partial recodification in the 2002 reform of the law of obligations and subsequent enactments. The commentary introduces the reader to the German Civil Code, explains its institutions and its terminology. Comments on individual provisions are likewise addressed to readers who are not trained in German law, explaining scope, context, meaning, relevance and practical application.

Bildung durch Wissenschaft. Vom Nutzen forschenden Lernens

Jürgen Schlaeger, Heinz-Elmar Tenorth, Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, 2020



The book sets out to analyse and clarify the central mission statement of Humboldt-Universität. It investigates the Institutional Strategy our university had adopted for the Excellence Initiative competition. In the English version, the idea encapsulated in this formula is rendered as 'Educating Enquiring Minds' and 'Translating Humboldt into the 21st Century', both not particularly enlightening descriptions as to what is really at stake. A clarification seemed to us all the more necessary, because the idea of a university education associated with the founding father of our university for most of the 19th and the 20th centuries, has come increasingly under attack as a pedagogic guideline no longer useful in the 21st century.

Central to what came to be known as 'Humboldt's model' worldwide, was the notion of 'Bildung' which did not simply signify any kind of education but a special intellectual and cultural imprint, which, it was thought, only a research-based university education can generate and which had to be distinguished from 'Ausbildung', which was seen as an advanced professional training offered, for instance, by polytechnics or, as they are now called, 'Universities of Applied Sciences'. We argue that, in times of mass education, research-based teaching in close contact with research may have become more difficult, but that to give it up altogether in exchange for a set of narrow competencies would be disastrous.

Library

The Centre's library is technically and logistically 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 relevant disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media.

There is a small reference library available in Mohrenstraße 60 to be used on the spot by students and staff

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 2020 the Covid-19 epidemic brought library life to a sudden halt when the first lockdown in March led to a closure of all HU libraries. The librarian had to work from home until libraries opened again in July. Services offered were extended gradually after that to ensure the accessibility of printed resources as well as the possibility to find a quiet place to work for students and staff of the HU. The usual walking and talking tour of the library for the new students had to be replaced by a virtual introduction to library services, an enjoyable first for the librarian.

Please note that the Centre's library is situated in the

August-Boeckh-Haus, Dorotheenstr. 65

2011

The Centre receives a visit from the new British Ambassador Simon McDonald. 23 students from 11 different countries are selected for the Master programme. Professor Schlaeger returns to the Centre as Senior Professor, supporting its MA programme with his expertise. The conference 'The Changing Role of the Humanities in the Academy and Society,' organised by Dr Georgia Christinidis and Dr Heather Ellis, takes place at the Centre in September. The students organise an exhibition for the annual *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* in Berlin entitled "Living Map: Meet the Four Nations of Britain" which takes place in the university's Senate Hall. The Keynote Lecture is given by Sir Christopher Mallaby, British Ambassador to Germany from 1988-92, on "Germany 1990 – the then British Ambassador Remembers and Reflects". It takes place in HU's recently opened new library, the Grimm-Zentrum.

EVENTS

Keynote Lecture

Law, Judges, and the Unwritten Constitution in Britain: Some Contemporary Issues with Insights from Shakespeare

Mary Howarth Arden, Lady Arden of Heswell DBE
Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

2 November

Shakespeare set the scene for the start of this lecture. In her talk, Lady Arden invited the public to look at the law, judges, and the British unwritten constitution by reference to a few stories from his plays, and to consider the question: how do the legal issues which had meaning for Shakespeare play out in contemporary British society?



Mary Howarth Arden, Lady Arden of Heswall, became a Justice of The Supreme Court in October 2018. She served on the Court of Appeal of England and Wales from 2000 to 2018. In 2011 she became a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, and is an ad hoc UK judge of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Alongside her judicial experience, Lady Arden has written extensively on how the law keeps pace with social change. Her two-volume book *Shaping Tomorrow's Law* was published in 2015.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, only a few guests were able to attend in the Senatssaal while a large audience was able to join the lecture via videolink

Professor Anna-Bettina Kaiser, LL.M. (Cambridge), chair for Public Law and General Jurisprudence at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin commented on the talk, and Professor Dannemann introduced Lady Arden and moderated the subsequent discussion.

From left: Prof Dr-Ing Dr Sabine Kunst, President of HU Berlin, welcomes Lady Arden and guests; Prof Anna-Bettina Kaiser comments on the talk; the (masked and distanced) audience used the opportunity to ask questions, here Prof Stefan Grundmann, dean of the HU Law Faculty



Monday Lectures and Events

Shortly before the lockdown at the beginning of the year, two lectures which were planned for our winter semester series, were allowed to take place. All lectures that were scheduled for the summer semester had to be cancelled. We hope to be able to present them in 2021 – either in person or via videolink.

Historical Perspectives on the Policing of Extreme Political Activism in the UK

Dr Iain Channing

Plymouth School of Law, Plymouth University

20 January

Dr Iain Channing, who is Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies at the Plymouth School of Law, Plymouth University, talked about policing political activism and how this presents the authorities with the dual challenge of preventing public disorder while also protecting political liberty. However, with the inconsistent use of their legal powers, the police have often been accused of political prejudice. This lecture analysed the police responses to extreme political activism and addressed the allegations of political partisanship, whilst also addressing further influencing factors such as police culture, legal ambiguity and regional variations.



2012

In January, the president of the HU, Professor Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, and Vice-President Dr Marina Frost visit the Centre to discuss its remit, its research profile, and its plans for the future. 33 students from 10 different countries are selected for the class of 2012-2014. The Centre organises and hosts a placement provider conference to discuss the future of this very attractive and successful part of our MBS degree course. The popular Monday Lectures series is continued with lectures by the cartoonist Martin Rowson, Professor Erik Swynedouw, Manchester University, Professor Hew Strachan, All Souls, Oxford, and John Peet, Europe editor of *The Economist*.

Iain Channing's research focuses on public order policing in historical and contemporary contexts. His publications include the monograph *The Police and the Expansion of Public Order Law in Britain, 1829-2014*, and the edited collection *Leading the Police: A History of Chief Constables* (with Kim Stevenson and David Cox). Iain has also published articles in *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, *Safer Communities*, and *Law, Crime and History*.

The UK Election of 2019 and the Possible Break-Up of the Country

Professor Iain McLean
Nuffield College, University of Oxford

10 February

Professor McLean's lecture focused on the 2016 referendum in Scotland and Northern Ireland whose voters gave a majority to 'Remain'; whilst those in England and Wales gave a majority to 'Leave'. This inherent tension escalated dramatically with the 2019 general election results. His lecture assessed the likelihood of either Irish unification, or Scottish independence, or both, occurring in the foreseeable future.

Iain McLean is Professor of Politics, Oxford University, and a Fellow of Nuffield College. He has long specialised in the politics of localism and devolution in the UK. He is a Fellow of the British Academy (chair of its Politics section) and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His publications on this subject include *State of the Union* with Alistair McMillan; *The Fiscal Crisis of the UK*; and *Scotland's Choices* with Jim Gallagher and Guy Lodge.



Dr Jason Allen with
Professor Iain McLean



Something we haven't seen for a while and which we miss greatly: our conference room packed with an interested live audience; here for the last time before the first lockdown was implemented in March 2020

A Decade of Centenaries: Ireland and Northern Ireland

The lecture series in the winter semester 2021/22 is 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



Nationalists and Unionists: Two Irreconcilable Tribes?

Dr Ruth Dudley Edwards

Journalist, Crime Fiction Writer and Historian

7 December

The (mainly Roman Catholic) Irish nationalist narrative is that Ireland was a single political unit until dismembered by partition in 1921 and that the territory should be reunited. The (mainly Protestant) counter narrative is that the island has been divided since the 17th century and that the majority of people in Northern Ireland are British patriots who owe their allegiance to the Queen. As a Dubliner from a Roman Catholic background who has lived in England for most of her life yet has been actively involved with Northern Ireland as an historian and journalist, Dr Dudley Edwards concluded that Ireland has been bedevilled by tribalism.

Dr Dudley Edwards is a prolific non-fiction writer whose works include biographies of Irish republican rebels Patrick Pearse and James Connolly, the history of *The Economist*, and *The Seven: the Lives and Legacies of the Founding Fathers of the Irish Republic*. Her satirical crime fiction targets the British establishment, academics, political correctness, and the Anglo-Irish peace process. Professor Paul Carmichael, Associate Dean (Global Engagement) at the Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences of Ulster University, made the introductions and chaired the discussion.

This lecture series started with a welcome address from both the Irish Ambassador Nicholas O'Brien and the British Deputy Ambassador Robbie Bulloch

2013

The class of 2013-2015 welcomes 32 students from 14 different countries. The Centre hosts its first alumni dinner, which included a talk by long-term guest lecturer Dr Gerry Mooney, live music, a photo show and the opportunity to reminisce, renew old contacts and make new friends. Baroness Hale, Justice of the Supreme Court of the UK, holds this year's Keynote Lecture on "The Protection of Human Rights in the UK". The Monday Lecture events include a panel on the UK Phone Hacking Scandal, and a talk by the British Ambassador Simon McDonald on "The Economic and Social Impact of London 2012". Professor Cunningham, Dr Evangelista and Dr Truxal are made Fellows of the Centre.

Public Outreach in a Pandemic

To fill the gap left by cancelled and postponed events, the Centre turned to other channels for its public outreach. On our website, we established a blog where members of staff showcased their current research and the peculiarities of teaching online. Gesa Stedman started our blog with a short piece on the interconnect-edness of the impact of Brexit and the pandemic. Marius Guderjan gave a report from Britain, where he was then still conducting interviews for his research project on the relations between the UK government and the devolved governments. In her blog posts, Anisia Petcu gave us a sneak preview behind the curtain of the developing student project 'Britons in Berlin'.

In June, after a couple of months of online teaching, Sonya Permiakova presented her thoughts on the experience so far (see spot-light on page 24f.). In the last weeks of the semester, Jürgen Schlaeger, Sam McIntosh and Jason Allen provided insights into their current research projects. An inquiry into the concept of *Bildung durch Wissenschaft*, which features in the Humboldt-Universität's mission statement lies at the heart of Jürgen Schlaeger's post (see page 48f.). Sam McIntosh is currently engaged in a project entitled "Refugee Lives Matter – Protecting the Human Rights of Unsettled Migrants and Refugees through International and Regional Obligations to Investigate Deaths". Last but not least, Jason Allen presented the research project on the "Life and Times of F.A. Mann" that he is working on at the Centre, together with Professor Dannemann, Christoph König and others.

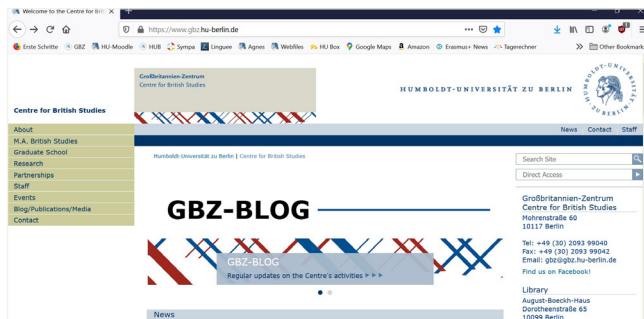
With the start of the winter semester, the blog saw renewed activity and it will be a feature of the Centre's public outreach, along-side events in new, pandemic compatible formats.

Visit the blog via our website

www.gbz.hu-berlin.de

or follow us on Facebook for regular updates,

www.facebook.com/CentreforBritishStudies



Advising the Centre

Advisory Board

This year's Advisory Board meeting was held virtually on 19 June. The Centre's staff informed the Board about its current status at the university, about the MA course and the Centre's public outreach and research activities. As was to be expected the two main points of discussion were how the Centre and its students were coping with the pandemic situation and what the consequences of Brexit would be for the course. Having talked to class 2019-21, the Board members were impressed by how well everyone had adjusted to the difficult situation. They furthermore expressed their commitment to supporting the Centre by maintaining the placement scheme post-Brexit as it is threatened by expiring Erasmus+ funding and stricter visa regulations.



Usually face to face but this time virtually: the Advisory Board is always supportive and helpful with the Centre's concerns

10-Year Review Forum

In 2019, the Centre established a 10-year Review Group. Fellows Professor Paul Carmichael (Ulster University) and Dr Steven Truxal (Leiden University) agreed to serve as Joint Chairs of the review. As a first step, in June 2020, GBZ staff, former students and guest lecturers were asked to share their ideas anonymously via email in the spirit of openness and honesty. Responses covered all groups of stakeholders and were helpfully detailed in nature. The Joint Chairs collated the responses and determined that the next course of action should be an open forum with GBZ staff to share the results, which took place in September. The virtual meeting gave participants the opportunity to share responses from the email survey, to gather feedback on future priorities for the GBZ; and to create space and give structure to the 10-year review by

2014

The Centre revises its teaching programme, and the MBS is turned into the MA British Studies. It sets up a Graduate School in British Studies, funded by competitively won excellency-strategy funding. 28 new students from 14 different countries make up the class of 2014-2016. Professor Dannemann starts a new project on the legacy of F.A. Mann, whose personal documents had been donated to the HU archives. This year's Keynote Lecture "German History for an English-Speaking Public" is given by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum in London. In September, the Centre organises a panel on the Scottish independence referendum. Together with guest lecturers and colleagues, Gesa Stedman founds the Berlin-Britain Research Network, which comprises humanities and social sciences scholars from the UK and Germany.

focusing in this first instance on 'what' the GBZ priorities should be, and 'why'. The topics discussed can be put into three main categories: education strategy, public engagement/diplomacy strategy, and research strategy. The forum was a positive experience for all participants. It created space to discuss, in an open and transparent way, the challenges, strengths and opportunities of the GBZ at present and with reference to the 10-year horizon. In a next step, GBZ staff will discuss the findings of the forum internally and draw up a list of objectives and priorities. A second forum will be organised in 2021 to discuss 'how' the Centre will go forward by implementing its priorities and strategies.

Public Relations

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Centre for British Studies – an occasion that this time we could not celebrate with our friends and alumni in person because of the pandemic. However, with the help of HU Press department a digital alternative was found: the Press department interviewed professors and some of the other academic staff members on the past and the future of the Centre in the light of Brexit. The interviews can still be accessed at <https://www.hu-berlin.de/de/pr/25-jahre-gbz/> - and the video interviews via HU YouTube channel.



Professor Dannemann on
ARD alpha Demokratie,
14 January 2020

During 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic understandably dominated the news cycle, however the interest in UK and Brexit matters in Germany remained strong. Prof Stedman commented on the UK Internal Market Bill on Bayern2. Prof Dannemann also discussed the state of Brexit negotiations in his interviews to, for example, Deutschlandfunk, Tagesschau, SRF4, Bayern 2, NDR, SWR2, or n-tv. Dr Marius Guderjan gave a comment on 'English oder well done? Der Brexit auf dem Grill' on @ hr2 Der Tag, on 8 December.

In early spring of 2020 Prof Gesa Stedman, Dr Marius Guderjan and Dr Hugh Mackay actively promoted their latest book, *Contested Britain: Brexit, Austerity and Agency* in various blogs and media outlets. Prof Gerhard Dannemann also gave numerous interviews about plagiarism and good academic practice, for instance, to Frankfurter Allgemeine, Tagesspiegel and Süddeutsche Zeitung. Other UK-relevant themes included party politics, and the crisis in the British royal family.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre was working to increase its online presence: Prof Stedman came up with the idea of a GBZ blog, which was intended to show that despite the pandemic and working from home, research and the digital teaching were in full swing. The Centre intends to extend the blog, edited by Prof Schlaeger, beyond the present Covid-19 crisis.

Most interviews
and articles can
also be found
on the Centre's
webpage:

gbz.hu-berlin.de

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*

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*

Lynn Parkinson, *University of Bradford*

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*

2015

The Queen visits Berlin. Some of our students and staff have the opportunity to meet her during an event at the Technical University. Professors Eisenberg and Dannemann are invited to the Garden Party given by the Ambassador at his residence in honour of the Queen; Professor Schlaeger to the state banquet given in honour of the Queen by the president of the Federal Republic. In May, the Centre celebrates its 20th anniversary with a panel on “Remembering Past Futures”, chaired by Sir Paul Lever. 25 new students from 10 different countries join the MA programme. The Keynote Lecture is given by Shami Chakrabarti, Director of the National Council for Civil Liberties in London, on “On Liberty: The Case for Retaining the UK Human Rights Act”.

STAFF

Academic Staff

Prof Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Director

Professor of British History. She studied history and social sciences at Bielefeld University, where she obtained a Dr phil in 1986. After working as a research associate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld in 1986-87 and holding a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ, in 1987-88, she became assistant professor at the History Faculty of the University of Hamburg where she completed her 'Habilitation' in 1996. She deputised for the social history chair at the University of Bielefeld, worked in the research unit Gesellschaftsvergleich at Humboldt-Universität's history department, and joined the Centre in October 1998. Prof 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 the history of cultural transfers. Her main books on Britain are: *Deutsche und englische Gewerkschaften. Entstehung und Entwicklung bis 1875 im Vergleich* (1986); *'English sports' und deutsche Bürger. Eine Gesellschaftsgeschichte 1800-1939* (1999); *Englands Weg in die Marktgesellschaft* (2009), translated as *The Rise of Market Society in England, 1066-1800* (2013).

Prof Dr Gerhard Dannemann, MA (Oxon)

Deputy Director, Dean of Studies

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, Deputy Director and Dean of Studies. 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 Head of Exams and Admissions

Gesa Stedman, currently Head of Admissions and Exams, 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) 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). Research interests include the the literary field in the UK, France, and Germany, the history of emotions, cultural exchange studies, in particular between England and France, British film and film historiography, as well as gender history. Gesa Stedman is the spokesperson of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies. She advises the university in international affairs, and has for many years acted as deputy head of the Committee for a Family-Friendly University at Humboldt-Universität.

2016

The outcome of the referendum in June this year dominates the timetable for the Centre's public events. The Centre's expertise is also in particularly high demand by various kinds of media. 29 students from 15 different countries form the new class of 2016-2018. The Keynote Lecture is given by Sir Christopher Clark, Regius Professor of History, Cambridge University, on "Sleepwalkers vs Warmongers. The 1914 Debate Revisited".



Top row from left: Christiane Eisenberg, Corinna Radke, Sylvena Zöllner, Marius Guderjan
Middle row from left: Sam McIntosh, Christine Seuring, Gesa Stedman, Gerhard Danne mann
Bottom row from left: Catherine Smith, Felicia Kompio, Anisia Petcu, Sonya Permiakova

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 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.

Dr Jason Allen

Dr. Jason Grant Allen joined the Centre 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, 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. Jason's first monograph, *The Supervisory Jurisdiction over Non-Statutory Executive Powers* is forthcoming with the Cambridge University Press. Jason is currently working on his second monograph on the future of money.

Dr Paolo Chiochetti

Research Associate in European Politics at the European University Institute (Fiesole). Paolo holds a PhD in European Studies (KCL) and has worked at King's College London, the University of Luxembourg, and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His research interests focus on British politics, political systems and competition in Western Europe, European integration, economic and social policy making, and radical left parties and ideologies. He is the author of the monograph *The radical left party family in Western Europe: 1989-2015* (Routledge, 2017), the edited book *Competitiveness and Solidarity in the European Union: Interdis-*

2017

The university-wide structural review leaves the Centre largely unchanged. Brexit continues to dominate the agenda for our public events. We admit 33 students from 17 different countries to our MA course. The Berlin-Britain Research Network organises a conference on 'Social, Political, and Cultural Challenges in the Light of Brexit'. The Keynote Lecture is given by Baroness Susan Greenfield, Professor of Neuropharmacology at Oxford University, on "The 21st Century Mind: Blowing it, Expanding it, Losing it".

ciplinary Perspectives (Routledge, 2019), and several book chapters, journal articles, and digital resources. He is also Lecturer in Comparative Politics at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Secretary of the Political Studies Association – Italian Politics Specialist Group (PSA-IPSG), and tweets @p_chiocchetti. While working at the Centre for British Studies (2019–20), Paolo researched the impact of Brexit on British voters, taught four modules ('Analysing British Politics', 'Constitutional Law and the Political System', 'British International Relations' and 'Self, Society and Agency'), was in charge of the applications for a Certificate of Sponsorship from the British Council, and supervised three Master theses. After leaving in October 2020, Paolo started working on a large research project on differentiated integration (InDivEU) at the European University Institute and continues to collaborate with the Centre as an external thesis supervisor.

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 inter-governmental 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 social policy. 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 funding 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 LL.M. 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 Danneberg, 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 under-

2018

Brexit and its consequences still dominate the Monday Lectures programme as do a number of events highlighting the importance of the Centre's close links with British academics and academic institutions. 39 new students from 17 different countries are admitted to the class of 2018-2020. A DFG-funded conference on 'Writing Europe 1918 – Writing Europe 2018', jointly organised by the Centre and The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities (TORCH), takes place in September. The Keynote this year is a public panel debate with all the Berlin and Oxford University presidents on "The New Oxford-Berlin Partnership as a Model for Academic Exchange with Post-Brexit Britain." Two former British ambassadors, Sir Christopher Mallaby and Sir Paul Lever, whose links with the Centre are particularly close, publish their memoirs and present them to large audiences at the Centre in March and December.

took his undergraduate legal studies at the Humboldt-Universität 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 visiting lecturer for commercial and private law at the University of Erfurt.

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 and graduated with an MA thesis on protest practices, entitled "Between Protest and Tradition. Street Politics in Dresden and Leipzig 1830-31". Her research interests include the cultural history of politics, the history of revolutions and practices of protest, European urban history, and the history of European communication networks in a transnational perspective. On the MA British Studies course Felicia teaches the 'First Week Project' and 'Academic Writing' as well as co-teaching 'Commerce and Culture in British History' and, in the summer term, 'Interdisciplinary Project: Self, Society, and Agency'. In January 2019, Felicia was elected the Centre's Equal Opportunities Officer and has since been supporting the Centre's women by allocating small research grants out of the equality fund, providing advice, and raising awareness for women's issues in higher education.

Sofia Permiakova, MA

Sofia (Sonya) Permiakova joined the Centre in 2013 as a Master student. In October 2015, Sonya Permiakova 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, representations of Russia and the Soviet Union in transnational poetry and fiction, and poetry – from the early 20th century until today. Over the years at the centre, Sonya has conceptualized and taught numerous courses, such as 'Literature Workshop', 'Cultural Project Management' and 'Film and Text'. In 2019, together with Prof Gesa Stedman, Sonya taught the interdisciplinary project entitled 'Britons in Berlin. The Berlin Myth'.

Anisia Petcu, MA

Lecturer and researcher in British culture and literature. In 2020, Anisia managed and taught the practice-led course 'Cultural Project Management', in which she coordinated the students in putting together their own exhibition. Initially meant as a part of the (eventually cancelled) *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 2020*, the project had to be spontaneously moved online due to the Covid-19 regulations. Anisia is interested in gender, representation, and the study of culture as a tool for both reinforcing and challenging social discourses. 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, in the light of Brexit and the pandemic. Other teaching included 'Advanced Debating', and 'Advanced Project Workshop'. Anisia is furthermore responsible for coordinating the students' work placements in the UK.

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 feminist studies as well as cultural policy, in particular in relation to politics of diversity and inclusion. She studied English and American Studies and German Literature at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the University of Manchester. Johanna has been on parental leave and will rejoin the Centre's staff in March 2021.

2019

The Centre's 'Brexit' activities culminate in a large-scale conference on 'Britain in Transition: Brexit and Beyond', co-organised by the Berlin-Britain Research Network and the Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung. In June, the MA British Studies celebrates its 20th anniversary, organized by the current student group. The *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* project is conceptualized by a group of PhD students and literary scholars from Berlin and Oxford with the topic "All the World's a Page." Our lecture series also fosters the Oxford-Berlin partnership with joint lectures from both university cities. The Keynote Lecture is given by Professor Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History, University of Oxford, and newly appointed member of the Centre's Advisory Board. In October 36 students from 15 different countries take up their studies.

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 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 Centre's 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 (B.A. 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, meetings 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. After the 2016 EU referendum, she is now the proud owner of both British and German passports.

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.

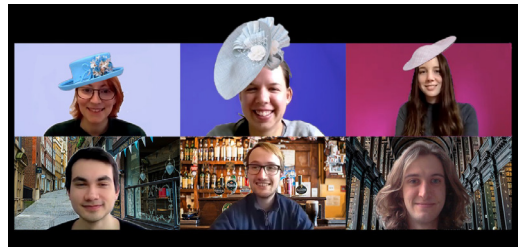
Librarian

Christine Seuring, BA

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 Centre's library in 2017 and is happy to answer any questions to do with finding information.

Student Assistants

DAVID BELL, Global History * LORENZ BÖTTCHER, Law * RICARDA CALLIES, Law * MHAIRI GADOR-WHYTE, English Literatures * STEFAN JOOSS, Industrial Engineering and Management * LEO KÄMPFE, Law * MARCO MAUER, Law * SARAH MEYER, Law * KIRA-LENA SCHAROLD, English and French



Always supportive and cheerful: the Centre's SHKs

Some statistics

Nearly 500 students from around 60 different countries have registered for the MA in British Studies in the last 20 years. The success rate, over 90%, has been outstanding. From 1996-2020 the Centre offered about 100 public lectures and organized more than 60 conferences, panels and readings. We gave up on counting cups of tea that were consumed ... there were just too many.

2020

Even though quite a few events and lectures have to be cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, it is another amazingly busy year for the Centre. For our activities during a strange and difficult year, which presents new challenges all round, please read this Annual Report.

To be continued ...

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