

CENTRE FOR BRITISH STUDIES
GROSSBRITANNIEN-ZENTRUM



Annual Report

2023

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What is the Centre for British Studies?

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

WE OFFER:

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

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

STUDENT VOICES

I want to thank Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, notably The Centre for British Studies, for giving me an exceptional opportunity to study at one of the top universities in Germany and acquire an immense amount of knowledge and practical skills over the course of two academic years. The decision to complete a master's degree in "British Studies" was a life-changing move for me that led to fantastic opportunities in my career path.

Olga Korotkova, Class 2021-23

These were crazy years, but the best part was my studies, the Centre, and most importantly, the people at GBZ and my university colleagues. Thank you very much for all your support through the past two years, and the wonderful and positive attitude.

Hasti Shahri, Class 2020-22

The Centre in 2023

2023 was bookended by tragedies which affected our students and colleagues in different ways, quite apart from the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine which also continues to leave its mark on our staff and students. But despite the earthquake in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, and the terrorist Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians and the subsequent Israeli military action in Gaza, the GBZ community continues in its conviction that cross-border and cross-cultural communication, teaching, and research based on our common ground as human beings is the way forward, both in solidarity when natural disasters hit, and when human aggression and wars break out. It wasn't always easy to concentrate on the job at hand, and we are all the more proud of our students who managed to do this, and of our staff who put on public events and conferences.



Prof Miles Taylor giving his inaugural lecture

A busy and successful year kicked off with our annual Oxford Berlin Lecture, delivered by the renowned China expert Prof Rana Mitter, who has subsequently departed Oxford for a career in the US. It was followed by Prof Miles Taylor giving his inaugural lecture on Thursday, 4th May, prefaced by his friend and colleague Prof Christopher Clark, who had

himself given a keynote lecture at the Centre in 2016. The keynote lecture in 2023 was delivered by Tristram Hunt, director of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and former Labour MP. Further lectures ranging from Ireland's absent fathers to the political economy of the British Empire attracted varied and large audiences, not least the student project on the role of the BBC in Berlin, and a poetry performance by editor and poet Karen McCarthy Woolf.

A highlight of the year was the ceremony celebrating the degrees of our MA British Studies graduates – only the second one following the pandemic to take place in person, and always a particularly joyous occasion, as it shows how resilient our students are when facing at times quite severe difficulties, and how well they have picked up again despite these hurdles. We are pleased that our support network has helped those in particularly challenging circumstances, with help ranging from individual coaching sessions to remedial and general writing groups.



The last part of the NHS symposium took place in the Rudolf Virchow lecture hall ruins at the Charité

Just before the beginning of the winter semester and our new and lively group of students arrived from 13 countries with 18 different first degrees, a large international conference took place focusing on the 75th anniversary of the British National Health Service, and in particular on the legacies of empire without which the NHS would not have taken the shape that it did. This was organised by Prof Taylor in cooperation with the Berlin Medical History Museum at the Charité.

A smaller public facing event was the Oxford Berlin art student exchange “Afterlives of Empire – Encounters of Art and Academia” which led to an exhibition and a panel debate. Participants returned during the

winter semester as part of the Art & Empire seminar which fed into the winter

semester's cultural project management course. Prof Dannemann's large and long-running DFG-funded FA Mann research project was successfully completed in 2023, and the new Einstein Research Group on Boundaries of Cosmopolis, with GBZ Oxford Berlin Research Fellow Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford), Prof Gesa Stedman, Dr Evi Heinz and Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, took up its work in October 2023.



'Encounters of Art and Academia' in the HU Lichthof (main building Unter den Linden)

All lecturer and researcher positions are currently filled with highly research-active early career researchers who attract third-party funding, travel far and wide to present their research or explore archives, and actively refashion the Centre's teaching and research environment. The GBZ Lunch Talks, organised by Dr Kalika Mehta, first invited early career speakers from outside the GBZ, and in the winter semester gave our own early career researchers the chance to present their work. The breadth and depth of this research ensures not only that the GBZ fulfils its own research agenda, but even more importantly continues to attract visiting

scholars from other countries and universities. In 2023, these were Dr Sandra Mayer from Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna, and Luca Augé from Paris. A new visiting fellowship programme will see further new early career researchers joining the Centre in 2024. Last but not least, numerous books by staff members were published in 2023, showing how years of work have paid off and produced tangible outputs which will last beyond the immediate moment.

What will also last beyond the moment is the longstanding support of Sir Paul Lever KCMG, who has stepped down as the longest-serving chairman of the Centre's Advisory Board. Sir Paul defended the Centre, encouraged its staff and students, and lobbied successive British governments tirelessly for our concerns with unflinching charm and diplomatic expertise. We look forward to welcoming him again as guest of honour at our 30th anniversary in 2025.



Thanking Sir Paul for his longstanding valuable support of the Centre

We are also grateful to our supporters, partners, and friends, alumni, students, and staff for giving so much to the Centre and ensuring that it continues to thrive.

Gesa Stedman
Director



Research Activities Staff Retreat

27-28 September

As in 2022, setting aside two days for an in-depth discussion amongst staff in a secluded environment allowed us to gain an overview, look at the larger picture, and develop a wider perspective in particular regarding those issues which cannot be dealt with adequately in the usual 90 minute staff meetings which take place every three weeks during term time. Following the successful 2022 staff retreat dedicated to research at the Centre, this year's staff retreat involved all Centre staff for a general stock-taking on working and communication at the Centre, research, teaching, and issues of academic integrity.

The Centre's staff met on 27 and 28 September with an overnight stay in a convenient hotel in rural Zossen, south of Berlin. We began on 27 September with stock-taking on work and communication at the Centre. This involved a thorough discussion of changed working patterns since the COVID pandemic and the consequences of more working from home, as well as the challenges which this posed for communication amongst Centre staff, and with students and visiting lecturers. The following in-depth discussion of the Centre's research agenda focused on the implementation and updating of the research strategy adopted by the Centre in 2022, including the introduction in 2024 of an open and competitive visiting researcher programme with one scholarship per term. Another notable outcome is the introduction of regular meetings

to monitor research developments at the Centre, such as projects, grant applications and networking.

The second day focused on stock-taking, planning and procedures for the MA British Studies, with a particular focus on the revision of admissions criteria and procedures (necessitated by recent legal developments), and preparing for the re-accreditation of the course which is due in 2024-2025. The afternoon session was



Discussing GBZ from outside Berlin-Mitte

dedicated to academic integrity and the new challenges imposed (and opportunities offered) by widely accessible large language model based chatbots such as ChatGPT. This discussion prepared the ground for a two-pronged approach taken by the examinations committee: first, to place a general ban on using LLM based chatbots for generating text to be used in course work, assignments and master theses, second, to start a consultation process on possible legitimate uses which might improve the output and could then be allowed as exceptions to the general rule.

Research Grants

EVELINA BAZAEVA: OXFORD

Evelina won a research grant from the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership to undertake archival work at the University of Oxford for the duration of three months in late summer. This allowed her to significantly advance her project and make exciting discoveries in the archives of various Oxford Colleges and libraries. In particular, it granted her the opportunity to study a vast collection of works belonging to Margaret Kennedy, one of the forgotten intermedial women writers of interwar Britain, deposited at Oxford's Somerville College, forging ahead with the respective chapter of her PhD thesis. In close cooperation with the University of Oxford, she also studied the literary legacy of other prominent Somervillians, such as Dorothy L. Sayers, Vera Brittain, Winifred Holtby, and Rose Macaulay. The research trip also allowed her to strengthen connections with the archivists and the librarians of Oxford Colleges and the Bodleian Library at large, who expressed their interest in furthering collaboration with Berlin universities. Shortly after the research visit, Evelina had the chance to report on her archival work at two consecutive modernist

Radcliffe Camera with its library, and the Oxford Berlin Partnership networking event at TU Berlin



conferences, namely the Modernist, Aestheticism, and Decadence symposium (MADS) held in late September at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena and the British Association of Modernist Studies graduate conference (BAMS) in early December at the University of Liverpool.

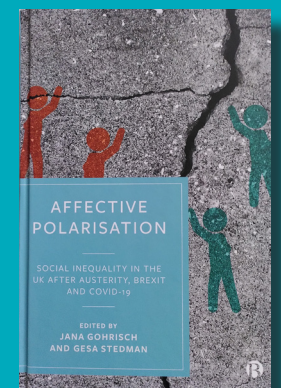
In October 2023, Evelina represented the Centre at the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership networking event, which took place in the main building of Technische Universität Berlin. The partnership's research community was able to network with one another and share the results of their wide-ranging projects. Among the notable attendees of the event were the Academic Directors of the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership, Prof Andrew Hurrell and Prof Çiğdem İşsever, Einstein Visiting Fellow Prof Stefano Evangelista, who gave a keynote speech on international collaboration in science, as well as Prof Stedman.

RILEY LINEBAUGH: LONDON

Riley took a month of research leave in September 2023 to accept a fellowship with the German Historical Institute London to begin archival research for her new project, "Caesar's Wives: Women and Colonial Secrecy in the British Empire." Upon consulting collections held at the Imperial War Museum, National Army Museum, the British Library, the National Archives, the Black Cultural Archives and at SOAS, she has gathered sufficient material to support a more substantial grant application, which she plans to write in 2024.

Berlin-Britain Research Network

A number of members of the Berlin-British Research Network were involved in writing chapters for the second book published by Bristol University Press in 2023, entitled *Affective Polarisation – Social Inequality in the UK after Austerity, Brexit and COVID-19*, and edited by Gesa Stedman and Jana Gohrlich. The network will be ten years in 2024 and plans for an anniversary meeting next autumn are currently being developed.



Writing 1900

After pandemic-induced restriction to ZOOM meetings, the Writing 1900 network was very pleased to be able to meet in person again in March 2023, exactly 13 years after the network had first been set up at the Centre. Based on both individual as well as collaborative projects, a number of outputs were celebrated with a round table focusing on recent activities and achievements.

On the second day of the meeting, the group discussed art history and visual culture approaches to the relation of texts and images, and how art history on the one hand and literary studies on the other are on similar trajectories, albeit with different timings, and different lines of thought emerging. The second session of the day was dedicated to new projects which were presented and discussed, ranging from digital archives to a lesser-known body of works from the painter John Singer Sargent, to the problem of categorising writers and artists from the Russian Empire, now frequently claimed as Ukrainian. A visit to the Jewish Museum for the exhibition “Paris Magnétique” on the Paris School of Art rounded off the meeting, with plans for conferences in Copenhagen and Vienna for 2024 already at the planning stages.



Writing 1900: the network will have its 15th anniversary in 2025

Writing1900 member Dr Sandra Mayer from the Akademie der Wissenschaften in Vienna spent two periods of research as visiting scholar at the Centre in 2023 (see page 25).

The Einstein Project “Boundaries of Cosmopolis” has grown out of the Writing1900 cooperation which Prof Evangelista and Prof Stedman have cherished for more than a decade (see page 13).

Medical Humanities

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS' WORKSHOP

This two-day interdisciplinary workshop, funded partly by the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership, was hosted by TORCH and held at St Luke's Chapel in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Oxford, from 25-26 May. The event brought together graduate students and post-doctoral researchers from the University of Oxford, King's College London, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The workshop showcased and shared medical humanities expertise and research, looking particularly at the different ways in which the inter-discipline is conducted in Germany and Britain, with the additional aim of developing a BUA-Oxford-KCL medical humanities network and holding similar events in the future.

There were 14 ECR participants altogether featured on panels covering ‘Ethics and practice’, ‘Pathologies’ and ‘History and culture’. There was also an introductory panel, discussing some of the traditional ways of conducting medical humanities research in Britain and Germany and the trending and developing fields of enquiry nowadays. Another panel ‘Projects and initiatives’ described recent community outreach, teaching opportunities and the experience of medical humanities at KCL.

A keynote lecture ‘Medical humanities, health policy, and avenues for collaboration’ was given by Prof Dora Vargha (University of Exeter/ Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). The workshop closed with a conversation about how to further develop the Oxford-Berlin-KCL axis, with more time allowed for planning.



From left: Neil Vickers (KCL), Miles Taylor (GBZ), Erica Charters (Oxford), Brian Hurwitz (KCL), Susanne Michl (Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin), discussing an Oxford-Berlin-KCL cooperation

GBZ Lunch Talks

The Centre for British Studies hosted the GBZ Lunch Talks, which provided a platform for early career researchers to present their interdisciplinary research in an informal format to a wide-ranging audience. For the first half of the year, scholars from other universities and institutions based in or around Berlin were invited to present at the Lunch Talks. However, for the winter semester the format of the series was changed to a ‘work-in-progress’ model. In this phase, the Centre’s research staff and graduate school members gathered over lunch to share their ongoing research and receive constructive feedback from other members of the GBZ research community. Dr Kalika Mehta organized the series in collaboration with Prof Stedman. This year’s events included:

- 19 January:
Dr des Hannah Pardey on “What Literary Studies Can Contribute to Global Labour History”
- 9 February:
Dr Nahed Samour on “Is Race a Relevant Category for Understanding the Law? Current Debates on the German Constitution”
- 20 April:
Hannah Wallenfels on “Nothing New in the Canon? Feminist Reflections on the Historiography of Philosophy”
- 15 June:
Dr Victor Jaeschke on “The 1992 Maastricht Treaty and the Rise of Euroscepticism in Britain”
- 14 November:
Dr Riley Linebaugh on “‘Caeser’s Wives’: A Report from the Archives”
- 30 November:
Dr Paolo Chiochetti on “Sorting for Brexit” (see picture below)



Oxford Berlin Partnership Einstein Fellowship

The Boundaries of Cosmopolis

October 2023 saw the launch of the new Einstein Foundation-funded research project ‘The Boundaries of Cosmopolis’ at the Centre for British Studies. Led by Oxford Berlin Einstein Visiting Fellow Prof Stefano Evangelista (Trinity College, Oxford) and conducted in collaboration with Prof Gesa Stedman (GBZ), Dr Evi Heinz and PhD student Rosa Chrystie-Lowe, the project explores the literary transmission of ideas of world citizenship and the world city across a range of linguistic contexts and material formats. Focussing particularly on the literary traffic between London and Berlin during the period from the 1870s to the 1930s, the project ultimately seeks to offer a fresh critique of the concept of cosmopolitanism (and its inherent boundaries and exclusions) in relation to literature.

The first official event of the new Einstein group, planned for March 2024, will be a workshop on periodicals and translation, bringing together an international group of senior and early-career researchers from the UK, Germany, and Belgium.

The group also looks forward to future collaborations with the BUA cluster *Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective* at FU Berlin as well as with other colleagues in the Berlin and Potsdam area, and to hosting the 16th session of the Harvard Institute for World Literature’s summer school in 2026.

Welcoming new research colleagues at the Centre: Dr Evi Heinz, Rosa Chrystie-Lowe and Einstein Fellow Prof Stefano Evangelista (from left)



Oxford-Berlin Lecture 2023

**Conflict, competition or cooperation?
How historical experience and future choices will shape
China's relations with the EU and UK**

PROF RANA MITTER OBE FBA

S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations, Harvard Kennedy School

6 February

Ideology, economics and history – these are the factors that will shape China in the 2020s and in its relationship with Europe. In his lecture on 6 February Prof Mitter discussed the following questions: What will be the role of a China shaped by a new nationalism and a revived interest in Marxism? How does the complex history of war and revolution shape Chinese thinking today? And how will relations with Brussels, Berlin and London change as China contemplates its “national rejuvenation”?

Before taking up a position with the Harvard Kennedy School, Rana Mitter OBE FBE was Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, and a Fellow of St Cross College at the University of Oxford. He is the author of several books, including *Forgotten Ally: China's World War II* (2013), which was named a Book of the Year in the *Financial Times* and *Economist*. His latest book is *China's Good War: How World War II is Shaping a New Nationalism* (Harvard, 2020).



Prof Mitter (right) with Prof Taylor

The annual Oxford-Berlin lecture is a firm part of the Centre's outreach programme and an important occasion to introduce colleagues from Oxford from all disciplines to a Berlin audience.

Colleagues from different research institutions in Berlin as well as many online guests joined the lively discussion

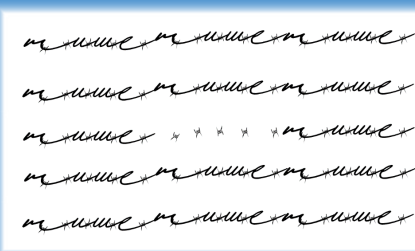


Colleagues from different research institutions in Berlin as well as many online guests joined the lively discussion

Poetry Workshop

In September 2023, students from Berlin met with Prof Kate McLoughlin (Harris Manchester College), Prof Adriana Jacobs (Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies) and writer, poet, and doctoral student Yousif Qasmiyeh (Oxford) for a multilingual poetry translation workshop. They began by working on translations of Erwin Gomerger's poem “Schweigen” into their various native languages, which ranged from Ossetian, Turkish, Arabic, and Hebrew, to English and Russian. Subsequently, participants discussed poems they had chosen in advance which in some way deal with silence, and presented the results.

Both creative writing and discussions were facilitated by the three scholars from Oxford who were pleased to encounter such an international group of staff and students. The results will be published on the Berlin University Alliance Oxford Berlin website, and plans are underway for a pamphlet published by a small British press as well. The workshop was the second in a series organised by Prof Kate McLoughlin which allows scholars and students to approach poetry, and most importantly, the problem of silence in literary texts, from new angles.



„Schweigen" by Eugen Gomerger, translated by Sonya Permiakova

The workshop was funded by the Oxford Berlin partnership and expanded the already close ties between the GBZ and the Humanities Division at Oxford in general, and the English Faculty in particular.



Spotlight

Afterlives of Empire – Encounters in Art and Academia

Afterlives is a new project developed by Gesa Stedman and funded by Humboldt-Universitäts-Gesellschaft.

In its initial phase, eight art students from Oxford and Berlin were invited to work at Lichthof Ost in the main building of HU, turning the room into a temporary studio, before transforming it back into an exhibition space. The art students showed how their interaction with several scientific collections at HU, among them the sound archive, the geographical collections, and the Winckelmann collection has led to a new understanding of some of the colonial legacies at HU.

A workshop with pupils from Rosa Luxemburg Gymnasium Pankow, a panel debate with art historians, curators, and cultural studies scholars such as Prof Birgit Neumann (Düsseldorf), Sarah Elena Link and Gesa Grimme (HU), and a pop-



Pupils from a Berlin school trying out different art forms

Discussing the different formats in which art and academia can be encountered; art student Chen Chen (Oxford) preparing her project in the improvised studio at the HU Lichthof



up exhibition itself concluded the first phase of the project from 14 August to 11 September 2023.

During the winter semester 2023/2024, the second phase of the project explored the entangled history of the British empire and art history further in an interdisciplinary project seminar as part of the MA British Studies at the Centre for British Studies. The students were introduced to cultural studies concepts such as representation, cultural exchange, contact zones, and entangled history and learned how to contextualise and read

works of art. At the same time, they were introduced to art works past and present which represent or critique the often covert afterlives of empire. Art students Chen Chen and Karin Stumpf from the first phase as well as the art historian Jo Vickery joined forces with Gesa Stedman during this semester.

The third phase of Afterlives of Empire will result in a project delivered by the GBZ students at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 2024*.

Building on the questions that the artwork and the artists have posed, Gesa Stedman envisages a longer-term exploration of how the British and German empires were entangled at Humboldt-Universität and in Berlin in general.

Two ways of engaging with the public: a panel discussion and an exhibition of the final pieces during the vernissage at the Lichthof Ost in the HU main building



Further Research Projects

PROF DR GERHARD DANNEMANN FA Mann (1907-1991)

See 'Spotlight' on page 30.

Academic Misconduct

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

Further Activities

Conference Papers and Lectures

"F.A. Mann – The Lawyer and His Legacy. Presented at the Law Faculty of Charles University, Prague, 11 May * "Marguerite and Martin Wolff". Presented at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, in a series of seminars celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Institute, Heidelberg, 16 June * "Performance-based unjust enrichment: a legal transplant from Germany?" Research Symposium on Robert Stevens, The Laws of Restitution, Keble College, Oxford, 28 October

Other Activities

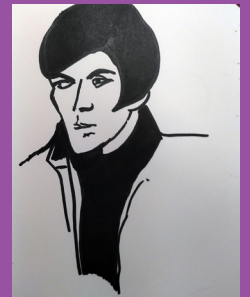
Attended the State Banquet hosted by the German President on the occasion of the state visit of King Charles III to Germany and the King's Presentation to the German Parliament, 29 and 30 March * Served in a DFG/AHRC panel deciding on joint grant applications for German-British research projects, 12-14 September



Prof Dannemann shaking hands with King Charles III at the official State Banquet in Schloss Bellevue, invited by the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier

PROF DR GESA STEDMAN

Gesa Stedman continued working on early-20th-century British writers in Berlin with a view to writing a monograph on Alix Strachey's time in Berlin. At this year's *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*, Profs Stefano Evangelista and Gesa Stedman showed the travelling exhibition „Happy in Berlin? British Writers in the City, the 1920s and Beyond”, which is part of their Happy in Berlin project (happy-in-berlin.org). Guided tours in English and German were attended by a diverse group of visitors, including HU's president Prof Julia von Blumenthal and vice-president Niels Helle-Meyer. Gesa Stedman was also happy to see the co-authored book on social inequality as a fall-out of austerity, COVID-19 and Brexit published by Bristol University Press in September, and spent much of the year developing a new art-related Oxford-Berlin project entitled “Afterlives of Empire – Encounters of Art and Academia” funded by Humboldt Universitätsgesellschaft (see Spotlight) which she seeks to continue in 2024.



Alix Strachey

From left: The Centre at the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften; rounding off the Writing 1900 network meeting



PROF DR MILES TAYLOR

On 4 May Prof Taylor delivered his Inaugural Lecture at the GBZ, entitled “‘Intelligible Government’: Rethinking the Meaning of Monarchy in the Age of King Charles III.” On 19 June he gave a presentation entitled “Empire and the turn to collectivism in British social policy, c. 1880-1914” at a conference on 'Comparative Empire: Conflict, Competition, and Cooperation, 1750-1914' hosted by the Society for Nineteenth Century Global Studies, Singapore. On 27 June he contributed to an online roundtable discussion of Henry Miller's



Early career workshop with participants from TORCH (Oxford), KCL and HU Berlin at Oxford in May

book, *A Nation of Petitioners: Petitioners and Petitioning in the United Kingdom, 1780-1914* (OUP, 2023) organised by the Parliaments, Politics and People seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. On 12 October he gave a seminar presentation entitled “Salt

technologies in India past and present: how a commodity made an empire and a nation” at the Mannheim Research Seminar in Economic History, Universität Mannheim. During 1-6 November Prof Taylor visited India, his trip funded by the Max Weber Stiftung in Delhi. He attended the book launch of his co-edited publication, *Salt, protest and public health in modern India* at the Indian International Centre. He also attended a conference at the India Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla on ‘In the Cause of Literature and Science: Learned Societies of Modern India’, at which he gave the keynote lecture, entitled “Provincialising knowledge? Learned societies in Britain and India, c. 1784-1914.” Throughout 2023 he continued to co-host an international monthly online seminar, ‘History of Universities’, with colleagues from Loughborough University and the Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. Presentations were given by scholars from Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Malaysia, Taiwan, UK, and the USA.

DR PAOLO CHIOCCHETTI



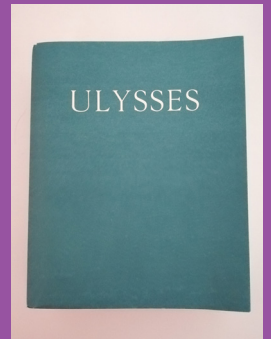
Paolo meeting up with Dr Gerry Mooney during his stay in Glasgow for an international workshop

In 2023, Paolo published the article “A quantitative analysis of legal integration and differentiation in the European Union, 1958–2020” (*JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*), the book chapter “The divided left in the UK: partisanship, ideology, and class after Brexit” (Bristol University Press), and a book chapter on the Italian radical left (Palgrave). He also won a research grant of 20,018 Euro from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) for the project “External

differentiation in the European Union: a new trajectory after Brexit and the Ukraine war?”, which will start in 2024 and result in a special issue of the journal *West European Politics* as well as plans for a larger collaborative project on the relations between the European Union and its neighbouring countries. Finally, he continued his research on British public opinion shifts in 2014-2022 and presented his work at conferences in Liverpool (Political Studies Association), Berlin (*Arbeitskreis Großbritannien-Forschung*), and Glasgow (international workshop on ‘Leadership in Radical Left Parties’).

DR EVI HEINZ

Evi joined the Centre for British Studies as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow on the Einstein Foundation-funded project ‘Boundaries of Cosmopolis’ in October 2023. From October to November, she spent two months on a Visiting Fellowship at the Bodleian Libraries in Oxford. Drawing extensively on the Bodleian’s collections of modernist first editions and rare private press publications, her research there focused on a little-known aspect of the publication history of James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, specifically, its connection to the early twentieth-century trade in bibliophiles’ editions of erotic classics. As well as giving a short talk on this work at the Weston Library, Oxford, Evi presented her research on modernist small press publishers at the inaugural symposium of the Modernism Aestheticism Decadence Studies network (MADS) in Jena. Building on her background in the study of modernism and twentieth-century print culture, her new research project as part of the Einstein group investigates the transmission of English literary culture in the Weimar Republic periodical *Der Querschnitt*.



Ulysses cover page

DR RILEY LINEBAUGH

2023 marked a transition year between Riley’s doctoral and post-doctoral research. In May, she travelled to Magaliesburg, South Africa to present on the politics of archival preservation and access at ‘The World is Ending Again: African Humanities in Times of Crisis.’ She presented and convened a panel based on her previous research at the European Conference on African Studies held in Cologne, 31 May-3 June. Her paper, ‘Futures-Past:

Counterinsurgency and Archival Control,' and panel, 'Archival futures: questions, practice and possibilities in the African archive,' further developed questions raised by her PhD. Later in the year, she presented papers at the German Historical Institute London's research colloquium and at the Institute of Historical Research's Women's History Seminar dealing with her new project on women secretaries and secret-keeping within the British empire.



Women's Territorial Service, Kenya. 1940s. IWM: Ministry of Information Album 15, K. 3094.

DR KALIKA MEHTA

In September this year, Kalika took up the position of Lecturer and Researcher in Law at the GBZ. Since 2022, she has been working at the Centre on the DFG-funded project on FA Mann. This year Kalika published her first monograph *Strategic Litigation and Corporate Complicity in Crimes Under International Law: A TWAIL Analysis* with Routledge. She also published a book chapter on "Other Examples of Domestic Implementation of the ICC Statute" in *Domesticating International Criminal Justice*, edited by Chantal Meloni, Florian Jeßberger and Maria Crippa. In addition, Kalika contributed to the recently published commentary on the Istanbul Convention by Edward Elgar on "Article 45 - Sanctions and Measures". In addition to working on the book on "FA. Mann: The Lawyer and His Legacy", she presented her ongoing research at the workshop organised by the ESIL Interest Group on International Organisations on 'Unpacking the Rhetoric of Eurocentricity: the Case of India and

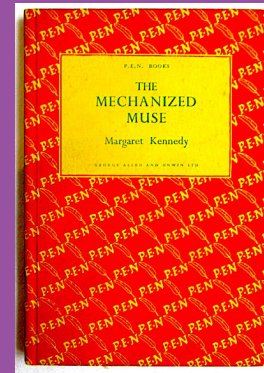


Kalika on a panel at the Dresden Human Rights Film Festival in November

the ICC' at the Annual Conference of the European Society of International Law in Aix-en-Provence (September). She was also invited to participate in the workshop on 'Professionals and Professionalism(s) in International Criminal Justice' organised by the University of Leeds (July). In November, she presented on "Selective justice: Seeking accountability while maintaining critical perspectives and addressing Western double standards" at a symposium

organised by ECCHR Berlin. She was also invited to a film discussion on the documentary *Theatre of Violence*, based on the International Criminal Court trial of Dominic Ongwen (Uganda).

EVELINA BAZAEVA



Margaret Kennedy, *The Mechanized Muse*, 1942

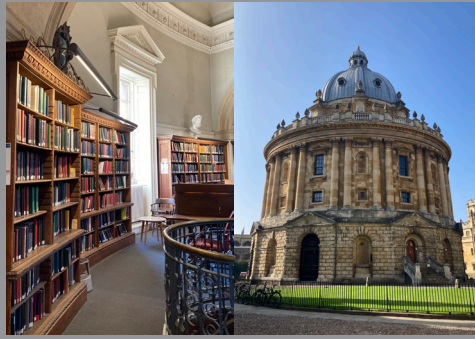
Evelina's research project "Towards the Literary 'Cinéécriture Féminine': The Cinematic Poetics of British Women Novelists of the Interwar Period" seeks to bring together the canonical and non-canonical women novelists of interwar Britain in an exploration of their rich intermedial production and contribution to literary modernism. Approaching the intersections and overlaps in print and film culture of Britain between the wars from a gendered perspective, the project aims to shed new light on the notion of intermedial identity as practised and popularised by selected British women modernists. In doing so, it will first make the case for the role of interwar cinema in the process of "defamiliarisation"

of the novel as it absorbed and assimilated certain cinematic techniques to maintain its generic relevance. It will then conceptualise the notion of "cinéécriture féminine" by highlighting the intermedial contributions of such British women writers as Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Bowen, and Margaret Kennedy to the revival of the novel within the broader emancipation of fiction from the grip of tradition. Such intermedial revision of their literary legacy will offer a more nuanced understanding of interwar movie culture, illuminate the intermedial (cinematic) modalities of narrative creation through the lens of prolific women writing of the period and capture the dynamic progression of female author- and spectatorship vis-à-vis the allure of and their fascination with the ostensibly crude cinematic medium of the time.

SOFIA PERMIAKOVA

In 2023, Sonya Permiakova finished and submitted her PhD thesis on twenty-first-century women's war poetry and WWI commemoration in the UK. The defence will take place in the spring of 2024. In September, Sonya's paper "Beyond 'for ever England': Contemporary British Women's War Poetry and the First World War Canon", based on her doctoral thesis, was published in a special issue of *Anglica* on 21st-century English poetry.

Shortly before her thesis submission, Sonya began developing her next project entitled “Huge Bears Softly Dancing”, focusing on poet and writer Hope Mirrlees, classical scholar Jane Harrison, their translations from Russian and mediation of Russian culture in the 1920s. In September, Sonya spent two weeks in Oxford doing preliminary research for “Huge Bears Softly Dancing”



A great place to do research: Bodleian Library, Oxford

at the Bodleian Library. In 2023, Sonya also joined MADS, the Modernism Aestheticism Decadence Studies network for early-career scholars based in Germany, and presented her new project at the network’s inaugural event at the University of Jena at the end of September.

Emeritus Professors

PROF DR CHRISTIANE EISENBERG

Prof Eisenberg held the Chair of British History and Society from 1998 until her retirement in October 2021, and was Director in 2008-10, 2013-15 and 2019-21. She came to Humboldt-Universität after posts at Bielefeld University, where she gained her PhD in 1986, and Hamburg University, where she completed her ‘Habilitation’ in 1996. From 1987 until 1988 she was a member of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. Prof Eisenberg is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

She has published widely, in particular on the social and cultural history of Britain and Germany as well as on methodological problems of historical comparisons and cultural transfer research. Her books revolve thematically around questions of the market economy and how modern society deals with it. During her time at the GBZ she focused on the English or rather British case, an early developed and especially successful example. Her current book project, “The Sporting Spirit of Capitalism”, pursues the hitherto unexplored entanglements of sport and financial history, again with an eye on Britain. This investigation into 17th and 18th centuries takes up questions from Max Weber’s well-known essay on The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1904) – in order to answer them anew with knowledge of the state of research that has since been achieved.

PROF DR JÜRGEN SCHLAEGER, MA (OXON) CBE FEA

Prof Schlaeger studied history, philosophy, Russian, and English at Würzburg and Cologne, and English at Oxford (BA 1967, MA 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 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 Foundation in Hamburg whose board he headed from 2011-2015. 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.

Prof Schlaeger continues to work on his long-term project ‘Selves in Transit’ which 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 and other forms of self-expression.



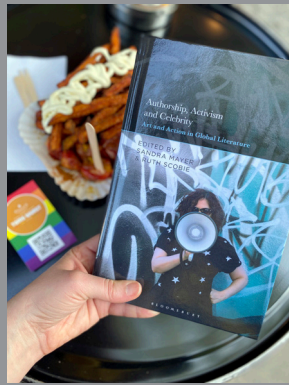
Prof Schlaeger and Prof Dannemann

Visiting Researchers

DR SANDRA MAYER

Sandra Mayer is a literary and cultural historian at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, where she co-edits the Auden Musulin Papers (<https://amp.acdh.oeaw.ac.at/>), a scholarly digital edition of W. H. Auden’s ‘working correspondence’ with Stella Musulin. She also leads a large-scale project on “The Author as Activist: Literature, Politics, and Celebrity”, which, based on case studies from the British context, covering a time period from the nineteenth century to the present, explores how literary authors staged their political interventions

through autobiographical narratives in different genres and media. The Centre for British Studies, with its vibrant and welcoming international scholarly community and its interdisciplinary outlook, offered the perfect setting for Sandra's work on the intersections of literature and politics. During her time at the Centre, she developed her book chapter on activism, agency, and female authorship in the nineteenth century, featuring a case study of Harriet Martineau, whose attempts at being a visible political agent in the public sphere necessitated precarious balancing acts between self-assertion and self-effacement. To strike a fragile balance between the empowering and disabling potential of political agency required some careful strategic manoeuvring, which is reflected, for instance, in Martineau's autobiographical writing. Sandra previously had the pleasure of collaborating with Prof Stedman and Prof Stefano Evangelista on their "Happy in Berlin?" project and is part of their interdisciplinary international research network "Writing 1900". She was delighted to have the opportunity to build on these existing research partnerships and to use her stay at the Centre to discuss future projects and collaborations with Prof Stedman and Prof Evangelista, which include, for instance, a "Writing 1900" workshop on the theme of authorship and activism, scheduled to take place in Vienna in September 2024. In light of these productive synergies, Sandra's work greatly benefited from her time at the Centre, and she is grateful for the warm welcome she received as well as the stimulating and enriching conversations with the Centre's staff.

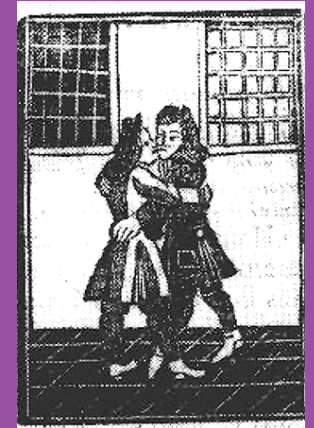


Authorship, Activism and Celebrity: Art and Action in Global Literature, edited by Sandra Mayer and Ruth Scobie

AYLON COHEN

Aylon Cohen completed a PhD in Political Science at the University of Chicago in December 2023 and is currently an Adjunct Instructor in Political Science at Purchase College, State University of New York. Aylon's research bridges the history of political thought, democratic theory, historical sociology, and queer and feminist theory to explore how people become attached to and practice democratic principles in their everyday lives. Their dissertation, which is titled "Sodomy, Equality, Fraternity: Bodily Practice and the Rise of Democracy" investigates how democracy is not (simply) an idea we have in our heads or found in constitutions and ballot boxes but a lived practice

immanent in the ordinary ways citizens interact with and relate to one another. Aylon was a visiting scholar at the Centre in 2023 undertaking research focused on the 18th century institution known as the Molly House, which describes an underground network of bars and clubs mostly located in London where members could drink, dance, and have sex. Surveying informant reports and court records of molly house raids, Aylon explored how bodily practices of feminization, cultivated in the molly houses, contested manhood as an exclusionary principle of democracy in 18th-century Britain. Aylon's work is forthcoming or published in the journals *Modern Intellectual History*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, and *Capacious: Journal for Emerging Affect Inquiry* alongside chapters in various edited collections. More information about Aylon's research can be found at: www.ayloncohen.com.



Rictor Norton (Ed.), "The Women-Hater's Lamentation, 1707", *Homosexuality in Eighteenth-Century England: A Sourcebook*. Updated 1 Dec 1999

LUCA AUGÉ



Luca enjoying his time at the Centre

As part of my PhD in British politics at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, I am undertaking a research visit at the Centre for British Studies under the supervision of Paolo Chiocchetti for the 2023-2024 academic year. My research project analyses the ideological, structural and wider political changes within the Conservative Party during the premiership of Boris Johnson.

The interdisciplinary approach of the GBZ greatly complements my project's own focus on British contemporary politics, society, law and history. My thesis was initiated in Paris, followed by a fieldwork in London and currently continues at the GBZ in Berlin. The one-year research stay at the GBZ will provide an interesting international dimension to this PhD and will allow me to apply for the European doctorate label, which recognises projects with a European dimension. I am therefore grateful to Paolo Chiocchetti, Gesa Stedman and the whole GBZ staff for welcoming me to their research centre for the duration of my fruitful PhD visit.



The NHS and the Legacies of Empire

A two-day international conference investigating the influence of race, colonialism and migration on public health in the UK since 1948. Join us and our event partner, the Berlin Museum of Medical History, for a series of talks, screenings, tours and policy roundtable.

A symposium
to mark the 75th anniversary
of the National Health Service



5-6 Oct 23

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Mohrenstraße 60 | 10117 Berlin | www.gbz.hu-berlin.de

Further details at: www.gbz.hu-berlin.de, or call: (030) 2093 99040

Spotlight The NHS and the Legacies of Empire

The GBZ hosted this international symposium together with the Berlin Museum of Medical History from 5-6 October.

This two-day international symposium marked the 75th anniversary of the British National Health Service by focusing on a neglected theme in the organisation's history, culture and current medical practices. 'The NHS and the legacies of empire' investigated the influence of race, colonialism and migration on different aspects of public health in the UK from 1948 through to the present day. Showcasing recent scholarly research and community projects this symposium looked in particular at four themes: 1) how the NHS was established and developed during Britain's transition from Empire to Commonwealth; 2) the impact of health inequalities on BME communities in the UK; 3) comparing the colonial legacies within the NHS with the modern German public health system; 4) debating the future of the NHS with BME health policy experts. Organised in collaboration with the Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité, there were 30 speakers across the two days and over 100 participants altogether (in-person and online). Keynote lectures were given by Dame Donna Kinnair (former Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing) and Prof Pascal Grosse (Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin).



Spotlight

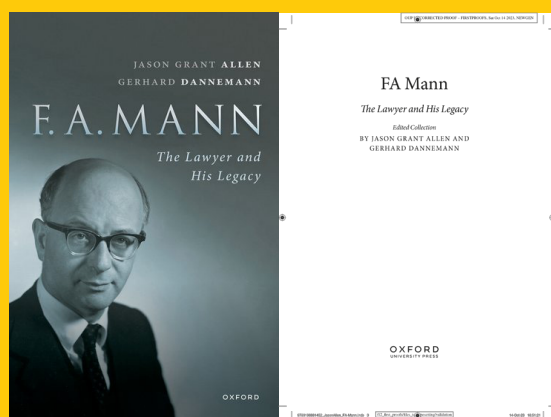
FA Mann Project

This year saw the completion and final editing phase of the main output of a DFG-funded project on the life and legacy of Frederick Alexander (“Francis”) Mann (1907-1991), an influential German-Jewish legal scholar who moved to London in 1933 after fleeing persecution in Germany. The project was co-directed by Prof Gerhard Dannemann and Dr Jason Grant Allen from its beginning in January 2020.

The main goal of this interdisciplinary project was to make the extensive correspondence of FA Mann accessible to scholars in order to develop a new understanding of how Mann has had a lasting influence on the development of English, German, European and international law to the present day. The main project output is an edited collection due to be published by Oxford University Press in February 2024.

The impact of Mann’s work, and therefore the scope of this project, spans several areas of law - including the law of money, conflict of laws, international law, the law of arbitration, and the transnationalisation of law. Given Mann’s importance as an intellectual figure in the German-Jewish diaspora, the project also made a significant contribution to German-Jewish studies through a study of his life and times. Leaders in each of these disciplines joined the project, describing the extent of

Mann’s influence and the relevance of his work to contemporary legal problems.



A sneak preview of the book cover and title page, to be published by OUP in 2024

Following the last conference in September 2022, 15 scholars from three continents finalised and submitted their individual contributions. Their draft chapters were then edited this year by Gerhard Dannemann, Jason Grant Allen, and Kalika Mehta and went through the final proof stage with the publishers. (Dr Mehta replaced Jason Allen, now Professor at Singapore Management University, in 2022 in the function of research coordinator.)

The edited anthology consists of 14 chapters which are divided into three parts. The first, “A German Lawyer of Jewish Extraction”, places Mann’s personal and professional biography in the context of contemporaneous Jewish life in Germany.

The second, “A Wealth of Legal Knowledge’: The International Lawyer” traces his influence on the interplay between public international law and domestic law, between public international law and private international law, international commercial practice and international arbitration.

The final part, “The Task of the Jurist to Define’: The Legal Aspect of Money”, focuses on monetary law and the lasting impact of FA Mann’s celebrated monograph on this area. Gerhard Dannemann and Jason Allen also wrote the introduction and conclusions to the book to highlight the common themes of the book and present an overarching picture of FA Mann’s intellectual legacy.

Two further outcomes of the project await publication. Christoph König’s doctoral thesis, a scholarly biography of FA Mann is in the final stages of writing. Jason Grant Allen’s monograph on law and money, is also taking shape.



Prof Gerhard Dannemann, joint principal investigator of the project, and Dr Kalika Mehta, who joined the team in September 2022

⁴⁶ Ge
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⁴⁷ FA Mann to DW Dobson (Mann estate, NLMann_0646, 13 July 1953).

⁴⁸ ‘This is a country from which for centuries people have gone out into the world with the intention ultimately to return and without any intention to sever their connexion with the British legal system and the ideas underlying it. It would not be in harmony with the temper of the British people, if the

Committee c
2021) 31 (he

³ Paul Theobald, *Juedische Juristen in Frankenthal* (Edition Winterwork 2017) 15 (hereafter Theobald, *Juedische Juristen*).

⁴ Jost Pietzcker, *In Memoriam* (Mann estate, NL Mann 0999, 1992) 24 (hereafter Pietzcker, *In Memoriam*).

⁵ Theobald, *Juedische Juristen* (n 3).

⁶ Overview of the DFG Project on FA Mann <fam.juscomp.org/projects> accessed 15 June 2022.

Doctoral Students

CULTURE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

Supervision by Prof Gesa Stedman, unless otherwise stated

- Evelina Bazaeva: “Towards the Literary ‘Cinécriture Féminine’: The Cinematic Poetics of British Women Novelists of the Interwar Period” Co-supervised by Prof Anne Enderwitz, HU English Department.
- Chiara Harrison Lambe: “A Study of Stella Steyn” (working title). Co-supervised by Prof Eva Ehninger (HU Art History) and Prof Gisela Holfter (University of Limerick).
- Jennifer Jacob has successfully defended her thesis on: “Between Independence and Interference: A Comparative Study of Funding Agencies as Intermediaries Between Politics and Science in the UK and Germany.” Co-supervised by Prof Dannemann and Prof Schlaeger.
- Sofia Permiakova has handed in her thesis on “A Century Later: Twenty-First-Century Anglophone Women’s War Poetry and the First World War Commemoration.” Co-supervised by Prof Kate McLoughlin (University of Oxford).
- Judith Robinson: “Literature Festivals in the UK: A Field Study.”

LAW DEPARTMENT

Supervision by Prof Gerhard Dannemann

- Christoph König: “F.A. Mann (1909-1991).”
- Kevin Schmauß: “Rechtvergleichende 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.”

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Supervision by Prof Miles Taylor

- Robert B. Stoner: “Chartist Material Culture: Consumerism and Political Agency in Victorian Britain.”

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).

Graduate School of British Studies

The Graduate School continues to meet for the GBZ Lunch Talk series for early career scholars and seeks to grow by welcoming new members both from the student body and beyond. As the faculty for modern languages has once again granted Prof Stedman full supervisor status, she is now actively recruiting once again to take on new doctoral students to replace Sonya Permiakova, who has submitted her doctoral thesis. Jennifer Jacobs successfully defended her doctoral thesis on comparative higher education funding in Germany and the UK and Chiara Harrison Lambe presented her thesis project on the Irish artist Stella Steyn at the DAAD Summer School which King’s College, the University of Limerick, and the Centre for British Studies had jointly organised at King’s in the summer of 2023.

Left: Robert Stoner and Luca Augé sharing an office as well as research ideas; right: congratulations to Jennifer who passed her viva in March and thus completed her PhD



Publications

DANNEMANN, GERHARD

"Marguerite Wolff at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Foreign Public and International Law." MPIL, 15 December 2023. Online: <http://tinyurl.com/y3dbfhwr>.

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

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

EISENBERG, CHRISTIANE

British History Compared: A Bibliography. 4th enlarged edition. Berlin: Edoc-Server Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 2023.

With Frank Daumann (eds). *Wetten und Sport – historische Perspektiven*. Special issue of *Sport und Gesellschaft/Sport and Society* 20.3 (2023).

"Editorial: Sportwetten in Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft seit dem Mittelalter". *Sport und Gesellschaft/Sport and Society* 20.3 (2023): 223-7.

"Kaufmannswetten in der handelsrechtlichen Praxis, oder: Wie die Briten zum Sport kamen". *Sport und Gesellschaft/Sport and Society* 20.3 (2023): 229-57.

Rev. of Kieran Heinemann, *Playing the Market. Retail Investment and Speculation in Twentieth-Century Britain*, Oxford: OUP, 2021. *H-Soz-Kult*, 28 April 2023.

Rev. of Bob Harris, *Gambling in Britain in the Long Eighteenth Century*, Cambridge: CUP, 2022. *Historische Zeitschrift* 317.1 (2023): 221-2.

Rev. of James Retallack, *German Social Democracy through British Eyes. A Documentary History, 1870-1914*, Toronto et al: University of Toronto Press, 2022. *Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte* 110.3 (2023): 414-5.

Rev. of Robert Colls, *This Sporting Life. Sport and Liberty in England, 1760-1960*, Oxford: OUP, 2020. *European Studies in Sports History* 14 (2021): 307-11.

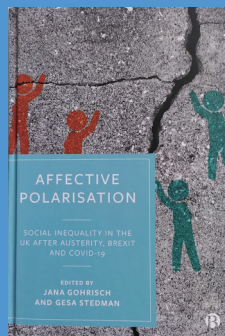
STEDMAN, GESA

With Jana Gohrlich. *Affective Polarisation – Social Inequality in the UK after Austerity, Brexit and COVID-19*. Bristol: BUP, 2023.

With Jana Gohrlich. "Introduction." *Affective Polarisation – Social Inequality in the UK after Austerity, Brexit and COVID-19*, ed. by J. Gohrlich/G. Stedman. Bristol: BUP, 2023, 1-10.

With Jana Gohrlich. "Conclusion." *Affective Polarisation – Social Inequality in the UK after Austerity, Brexit and COVID-19*, ed. by J. Gohrlich/G. Stedman. Bristol: BUP, 2023, 233-7.

Continues to blog on recent developments in the British literary field. Online: www.literaryfield.org.



TAYLOR, MILES

With Tanuja Kothiyal (eds). *Salt, protest and public health in modern India*. Special issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 46.4 (2023).

With T. Kothiyal. "Introduction. Salt, Protest and Public Health in Modern India." *Salt, protest and public health in modern India*, ed. by T. Kothiyal/M. Taylor. Special issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 46.4 (2023), 729-40.

"5. The Ungrudging Indian: The Political Economy of Salt in India, c. 1878-1947." *Salt, protest and public health in modern India*, ed. by T. Kothiyal/M. Taylor. Special issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 46.4 (2023), 791-805.

With E. DeCourcy: "7. Salt and the National Imaginary: the Photojournalism of the Dandi Satyagraha." *Salt, protest and public health in modern India*, ed. by T. Kothiyal/M. Taylor. Special issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 46.4 (2023), 820-33.

Rev. of Michael Ledger-Lomas, *Queen Victoria: This Thorny Crown*, OUP, 2022. *History: Reviews of New Books* 51.4 (2023): 75-6.

Rev. of Pierre Rosanvallon, *The populist century. History, theory, critique*, Polity Press, 2021. *Political Quarterly* 94.3 (July/September 2023): 502-3.

Rev. of David Hendy, *The BBC: A people's history*, Profile Books, 2022; and Simon J. Potter, *This is the BBC. Entertaining the nation, speaking for Britain? 1922-2022*, OUP, 2022. *Political Quarterly* 94.4 (October/December 2023).

Rev. of Erik Linstrum, *Age of Emergency. Living with violence at the end of the British Empire*, OUP, 2023. *Times Literary Supplement*, 24 November 2023, 24.

Rev. of Matthew Parker, *One Fine Day: 29 September 1923. Britain's Empire on the Brink*, Abacus Books, 2023; and Charlotte Lydia Riley, *Imperial Island. A History of Empire in Modern Britain*, Bodley Head, 2023. *History Today* 73.12 (December 2023): 102-3.

CHIOCCHETTI, PAOLO

"A Quantitative Analysis of Legal Integration and Differentiation in the European Union, 1958-2020." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 61.5 (2023): 1337-59.

"The Divided Left in the UK: Partisanship, Ideology, and Class after Brexit." *Affective Polarisation: Social Inequality in the UK after Austerity, Brexit, and COVID-19*, ed. by J. Gohrlich/G. Stedman. Bristol: BUP, 2023, 11-32.

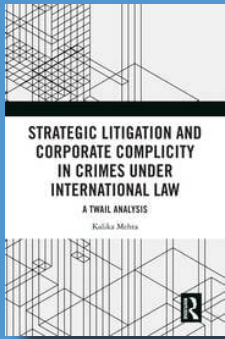
"Italy." *The Palgrave Handbook of Radical Left Parties in Europe*, ed. by F. Escalona, L. March and D. Keith. Palgrave, 2023, pp. 351-95.

HEINZ, EVI

"John Rodker." *Encyclopedia of London's East End*, ed. by Kevin A. Morrison, McFarland, 2023. Online.

LINEBAUGH, RILEY

"History and Politics of the Kenya Archives." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*, OUP, 2023. Online.



MEHTA, KALIKA

Strategic Litigation and Corporate Complicity in Crimes Under International Law: A TWAIL Analysis. Ebingdon: Routledge, 2023.

"Sanctions and Measures – Article 45." *Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence: Commentary to the Istanbul Convention*, ed. by Micaela Frulli and Sara De Vido. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2023, 538–47.

"Other Examples of Domestic Implementation of the ICC Statute." *Domesticating International Criminal Justice*, ed. by Chantal Meloni, Florian Jeßberger, Maria Crippa. Ebingdon: Routledge, 2023, 122–34.

PERMIAKOVA, SOFIA

"Beyond 'for ever England': Contemporary British Women's War Poetry and the First World War Canon." *Anglica. An International Journal of English Studies* 32.3 (2023): 11–24.

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 disciplines involved in British Studies, i.e. British literature and culture, history, and political science, economy, and law, philosophy, sociology, art, and the media. At present, the library holds approximately 36,000 volumes. An extensive range of electronic material is accessible via the discovery system PRIMUS. The Centre's library is a modern research library that is continually expanding, thus offering the latest publications covering relevant subjects. In spring, the 4th enlarged edition of *British History Compared: A Bibliography* compiled by the GBZ's former Chair for British History and Society, Prof Christiane Eisenberg, was published on the HU Open-Access server. The document can be accessed on the GBZ website in the section Online Resources | Bibliographies | History.



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

MA British Studies Course Description

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

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the course are:

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



COURSE OVERVIEW

1st Semester

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

2nd Semester

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

*Choose three out of Modules 7-12.

3rd Semester

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

* Module 14 may be substituted by other HRU courses.

4th Semester

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

COURSE STRUCTURE

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

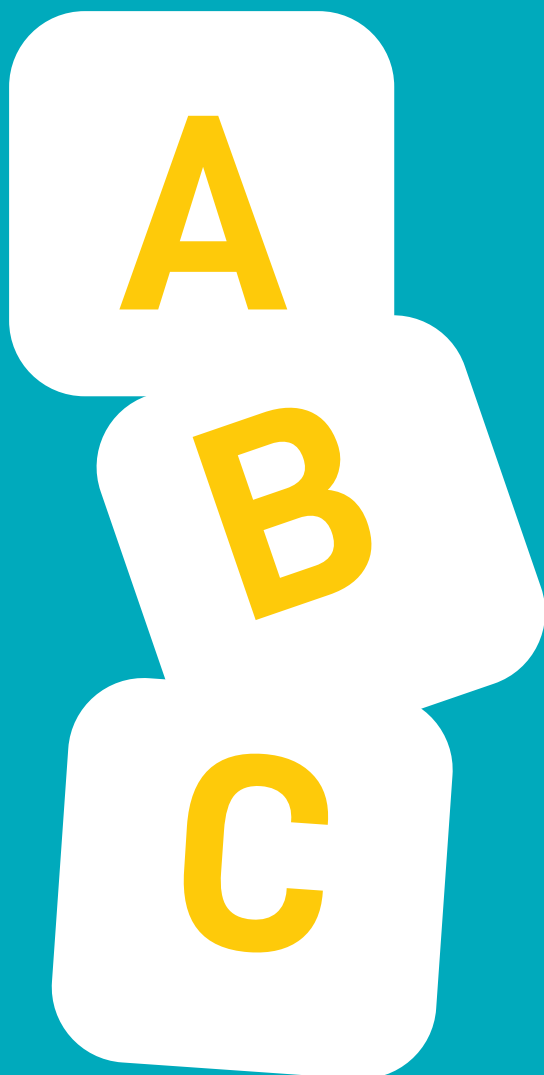
ADMISSION

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



Modules of the Course

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



A) COMPULSORY MODULES

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

B) COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MODULES

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

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

C) COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MODULES AT OTHER DEPARTMENTS

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

10 ECTS

MODULES FOR STUDENTS OF OTHER HU STUDY PROGRAMMES

Here, students from other HU master programmes as well as students from FU and TU Berlin may attend the following module:

Advanced Seminars in British Studies	10 ECTS
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MA British Studies Students Class 2022–2024

NAME	NATIONALITY	FIRST DEGREE
Arif, Malik Shoab	Pakistan	BSc Engineering
Bagautdinova, Linara	Russia	BA State and Municipal Management Professional Education Directing
Darnopykh, Anna	Ukraine	BA International Law
De Castro Pessoa, Filipe Eduardo	Brazil	BA Law
Dinçer, Gül Nur	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Dolphin, Christopher	USA	BSc Communications
Doorly, Mary Rose	Ireland	MA American Studies
Ermaner, Ebrar	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Göze, Erkin Cem	Turkey	BA English Language and Literature
Gül, Fatma Gülen	Turkey	BA Translation and Interpreting English
Kalinkina, Anna	Russia	BA Linguistics
Kinoshita, Chikako	Japan	BEd English Education
Köhler, Karina	Germany	BA English and American Studies
Koshik, Mariia	Russia	BA Linguistics (English, German)
Lee, Yi-Yan	Hong Kong	MA Literary and Cultural Studies
Lobato Díez, Paula	Spain	MEd Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Merezhko, Nino	Russia	BA Classical Philology
Nelson, Jazmina Esme	UK	BA Modern Languages and Culture (French, Italian)
Nery de Brito, Vitória	Brazil	BA Journalism
Osmanagić, Nedim	Bosnia and Herzegovina	BSc International Economics and Manage- ment
Pashaeva, Leila	Russia	BA English and American Studies

Radygina, Olga	Russia	BA History; Music Business
Ryzhova, Tatiana	Russia	MA Philology (Literary Studies, English)
Su, Kenan	China	BA English Language
Tutschek, Pippa Aleida	Netherlands	BA English and American Studies
Wilson, Leah Maree	South Africa	BA Journalism, Media Studies and Linguistics
Zhang, Lujia	China	BA English Studies
Zheng, Lufei	China	BA Business English



MA British Studies Students Class 2023–2025

NAME	NATIONALITY	FIRST DEGREE
Abedinpour, Seyedamirhossein	Iran	BA English Language and Literature
Akbar, Amna	Pakistan	MA English Linguistics
Akbulut, Selin	Türkiye	BA English Language Teaching
Aydöner, Sena	Türkiye	BA English Language Teaching
A., Margarita	Russia	BA Jurisprudence



Bal, Burcu	Türkiye	BA English Translation and Interpreting
Çağlayan, İdil	Türkiye	BA Foreign Language Education
Chernova, Irina	Russia	BSc Linguistics
Diestel, Alina Marie	Germany	BA English and American Studies
Dzhamirzoeva, Mariia	Russia	BA English Philology
Eppa, Lina	Germany	BA Applied Literary and Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Musicology
Fleury, Maïlis	France	BA History and Political Science (Hons.)
Grishin, Igor	Russia	BA Linguistics
Hartono, Ranny	Indonesia	BPsy Psychology
Huang, Xiangyi	China	BA English Language and Literature Studies
İpek, Kübra	Türkiye	BA English Literature (Hons.)
Koçdağ, Ezgi	Türkiye	BA Psychology
Kukharenko, Daria	Russia	BA Philology; Applied Philology (Foreign Languages)
Li, Xinwan	China	MSc Digital Media Design
Navas Gómez, Marien Nicols	Colombia/Spain	BA Comparative Literature (English and French)
Özgür, Kumsal	Türkiye	BA Economics and Psychology
Parkhomova, Arina	Russia	Specialist International Relations
Potemina, Ekaterina	Russia/Germany	BA English Studies, Minor: Korean Studies
Seyd Mortazavi, Mina Berfin	Türkiye/Iran	BA English Language and Literature
Seymour, Tara Ann	USA	BA Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought (with concentration in Literature and Rhetoric)
Temel, Gonca	Türkiye	BA American Culture and Literature
Vlieger, Timo	Netherlands	BA History
Yashtylova, Elena	Russia	BA Philology (Modern West-European Languages and Literatures)
Yıldırım, Aleyna	Türkiye	BA English Language and Literature
Zhong, Yunyi	China	BA English (Literature)
Zosso, Sunny Kaiwen	Switzerland	BA Literature and Languages, Major: Modern Literature

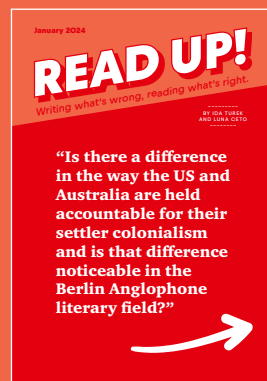
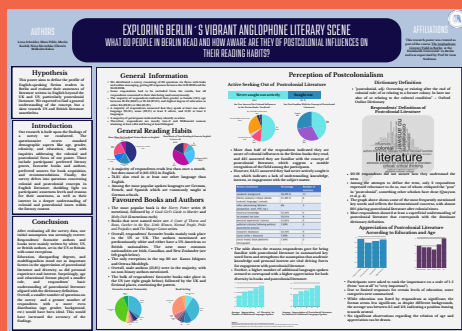
Teaching Example

IMPERIAL LEGACIES IN THE ANGLOPHONE LITERARY FIELD IN BERLIN: SUBTLE FORMS OF EXCLUSION?

GESA STEDMAN

This experimental seminar allowed students from all disciplines to join forces in order to conduct fieldwork in Berlin. After the first few sessions dedicated to learning about the concept of the literary field as it was developed by Pierre Bourdieu and his successor Gisèle Sapiro, the students chose outputs which they wanted to produce in groups, a research question to which they wanted to find answers, and planned and conducted the empirical research necessary to complete the work. Students could choose whether they wanted to write an ethnographic diary, produce a podcast, an academic poster, a zine, a written research report, or make a documentary film. In the end, four groups formed to find out whether any imperial legacies can be found in the Anglophone literary field in Berlin, which has in recent years grown into an important part of the regional Berlin field. It was a challenge to organise all the work themselves, develop a feasible research topic and a methodology in order to actually conduct the fieldwork, and then establish the skills needed to produce the chosen output, which was new to all the groups. Both Prof Stedman and the participants agreed that self-directed research and no assessment other than the agreed output where a refreshing way to learn and to teach, and that open-ended research in a real-life setting made an invigorating change to the usual teaching and learning formats offered at HU. The outputs will be published/have been published on the website *The Literary Field Kaleidoscope* which Prof Stedman runs with her colleague Dr Sandra van Lente: www.literaryfield.org.

Two of the self-selected student outputs: an academic poster and a zine



Further Activities

VISIT TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY

This year our new class 2023-2025 toured the British Embassy at the beginning of the new semester on Friday, 27th October. This tour was organised kindly by Astrid Ladd, Team Assistant in the Press, Public and Political Affairs Department. We began with an informative look at the many contemporary artworks, installations and sculptures by famous British artists such as Anish Kapoor, Tony Cragg and the architect Michael Wilford. We then continued with an informal discussion with Tom Crewther (Head of the Bilateral and Internal Politics Team), together with Ilias Ben Mna (Public Diplomacy and

Internal Politics Section) who are responsible for fostering UK-German bilateral political relations and organising cultural events.



Vitória Nery de Brito (sitting left in the front row), class 22-24, accompanied us on this tour. Vitória was at the time enjoying her work placement with the British Embassy Berlin, supporting the Trade Policy Team

EXCURSION: HUMBOLDT FORUM

In 2023, Riley Linebaugh taught a short course exploring histories of the British Empire through contemporary restitution debates. The course concluded with an excursion to the Benin Bronzes exhibition at the Humboldt Forum, where students were led by two museum guides as they learned more about both the past and present of colonially acquired museum objects. The course supported student engagement with the GBZ's thematic focus on 'Legacies of Empire' and resulted in several students' own provenance research projects.

Debating restitution: excursion to the Benin Bronzes exhibition at the Humboldt Forum



Spotlight Student Project

“SOUND AND VISION: 100 YEARS OF THE BBC IN BERLIN”
A CPM PROJECT IN PERSPECTIVE

In the winter semester of 2022, the students of the Centre laid the groundwork for the multi-faceted student project, *Sound and Vision: 100 Years of the BBC in Berlin*, as part of their course on Cultural Project Management, led by lecturer Evelina Bazaeva. This year, the event was a celebration of the BBC’s centenary in 2022 and featured a thematic exhibition, a panel discussion with German and British academics, a short student documentary, and a podcast series. The event was hosted at the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum on 2nd June 2023.

As the project progressed, the class showcased their talent, skills, and knowledge of the BBC’s role in Berlin’s history over the course of 100 years. It culminated in an informative and entertaining event, enjoying success with both a live and remote audience. The students connected Berlin’s past and present through the lens of radio and reportage of the BBC during the interwar period, the war years, and the Cold War through the eyes and insights of scholars, politicians, journalists, and ordinary Berliners.

The event was inaugurated with the exhibition which unveiled the BBC’s role in shaping the music and radio landscape of Berlin, and was displayed in the foyer of the Grimm-Zentrum for two weeks. The documentary, *Berlin Through the Lens of the BBC: A Century of Reporting and Reflection*, presented a historical overview of the BBC’s reportage in Berlin by drawing on interviews with local people who experienced the Cold War, as well as German and British



The student exhibition displayed in the foyer of the Grimm-Zentrum



Chris Dolphin and Vitória Nery de Brito (left) moderating a panel discussion with Dr Will Studdert (University of Hamburg) and Dr Sydney Hutchinson (HU)

historians and media scholars. The podcast, the *GBZ Rundfunk Retrospective*, offered insights into the critical history of the personalities that made the BBC while having deep ties with the German capital. The episodes featured interviews with Ben Bradshaw MP, a former

BBC correspondent in Berlin and long-standing member of the Centre’s Advisory Board, Dr Emily Oliver (Magdalen College School, Oxford), Dr Stephanie Seul (University of Bremen), and Prof Richard Aldous (Bard College, New York).

From Marlene Dietrich to David Bowie and the Weimar years to the GDR, Berlin has shared a rich history with the British Broadcasting Company, both on air and on screen. Our student project demonstrated how influential and significant the role of the BBC was in forging Anglo-German relations and transforming the musical scene of Berlin across the past 100 years.

The project ran in a hybrid format and was live-streamed and attended by dozens of people across the globe, who also had the opportunity to join the live Q&A session at the end and exchange their thoughts with the panellists. You are welcome to find out more about our project and get access to our project media on our Instagram page at [@british_berlin](https://www.instagram.com/british_berlin). We hope you enjoy experiencing a hundred years of Berlin’s history with us through the journalistic lens of the BBC.

Evelina Bazaeva & Chris Dolphin, Head of PR (2023)



Class 2022-24 celebrating the successful completion of their project

Guest Lecturers

As an interdisciplinary master's programme we need to offer a wider range of teaching topics. In order to do so we can rely on a group of external lecturers from the UK and elsewhere who support the core GBZ staff on subjects outside their disciplines.

In 2023, these were:

- Dr Olivier Butzbach, University of Campania
- Prof Dr Paul Carmichael, University of Ulster
- Dr Andy Feist, Home Office, London
- Marianne Graffam, Berlin
- Christoph König, Berlin
- Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University in Scotland
- Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University
- Dr Carlo Morelli, University of Dundee
- Dr Terry O'Sullivan, The Open University
- Robert B Stoner, Berlin
- Dr Vishal Vora, Berlin
- Dr Adrian Wilding, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Students performing Shakespeare under Marianne Graffam's (middle) supervision



Class 2023-25 with Dr Gerry Mooney (middle) who not only discussed social inequality with them but also taught them a wee bit of Scots

Student Mobility Scheme

During the third semester of the MA British Studies, students get the opportunity to pursue a 3-month placement at a UK-related organisation. This allows them to 'study the UK on the ground' and gain valuable work experience in their chosen career path. This feature has consistently been one of the most popular elements of the study programme.

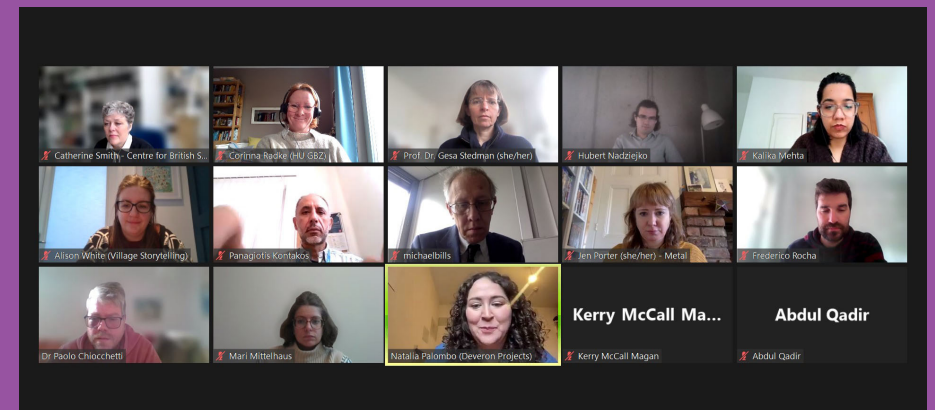
The end of UK participation in the Erasmus+ funding scheme on 31 May 2023 forced us to restructure our student mobility scheme, as it determined the simultaneous loss of both a viable visa pathway and Erasmus funding for stays in the UK. Paolo Chiocchetti, with support from Riley Linebaugh and Kalika Mehta, led the GBZ's efforts to transform its student mobility scheme and managed to negotiate agreements for remote placements with some of our traditional British partners and for in-person placements with new partners in Ireland, Germany, and other European countries. Our list of active trusted

providers now includes about 40 cultural, political, and business organisations spread across the continent: for example, the British Council in Dublin and Amsterdam, the National Famine Museum in Strokestown, the Birmingham City Council office in Brussels, the Keats-Shelley House in Rome, the Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft in Berlin, and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London. Students have also independently arranged opportunities for themselves based on their individual interests. Thus it was possible to successfully identify placements for all students in 2023.

At the same time, we continue to discuss with the relevant stakeholders future pathways for in-person stays in the UK (e.g. direct visa sponsorships by providers, research stays at universities, new programmes of the British, Scottish, and Welsh governments), always keeping an eye on broader political developments impacting student exchange with the UK.

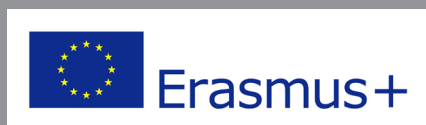
On 10 November 2023, GBZ organized an online conference for placement providers to review the student mobility scheme with existing providers and share best practices with potential ones. The conference was attended by ten placement providers, as well as Nina Gerland from the Welcome Centre of Humboldt-Universität and Prof Gesa Stedman, Corinna Radke, Paolo Chiocchetti and Kalika Mehta. Some of the UK-based participants discussed various arrangements for dealing with placements post-Brexit. MA British student Hubert Nadziejko, who did his work placement with the Scottish parliament, shared his experience and emphasized the importance of it for this degree. All the participants agreed on their positive experiences with students and renewed their commitment to addressing practical challenges to continue supporting work placements.

Discussing the future of the Centre's work placement scheme with new and long-standing providers, staff and students with everyone agreeing that this is an essential part of the programme



Students completed their work placements at a stellar set of Britain-related providers in Ireland, Germany, Italy, the UK (remotely), Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, the Netherlands, and Turkey:

4Flow, Berlin * Birmingham City Council, Brussels Office * British Council Ireland * British Council Netherlands * British Embassy Berlin * British Institute at Ankara * British Institute of Florence * British School at Athens * Brookside Publishing, Dublin * Conzia, Berlin * Deutsch-Britische Gesellschaft * European Diplomats, Berlin * Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome * Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, International Office * In Place of War, Salford (remote) * indieRepublik, Berlin * Pavilion Theatre, Dublin * The Little Museum of Dublin * The National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park * The Village Storytelling Centre, Glasgow (remote) * Università di Bologna, Dipartimento di Interpretazione e Traduzione * University of Central Lancashire Cyprus



All international Non-UK placements were supported by the Erasmus+ funding scheme of the European Union

Reports

Gül Nur Dinçer

BRITISH COUNCIL IRELAND

During my internship at the British Council Ireland in Dublin, I was privileged to immerse myself in cultural diplomacy, significantly growing both personally and professionally. Operating within the Art and Culture department, I contributed to projects that strengthened UK-Ireland cultural relations while enjoying the vibrant Dublin city. A standout highlight was the honour of meeting the First Minister of Scotland, Humza Yousaf, an experience emblematic of the unique opportunities presented by the British Council Ireland. In general, the role was immensely rewarding,



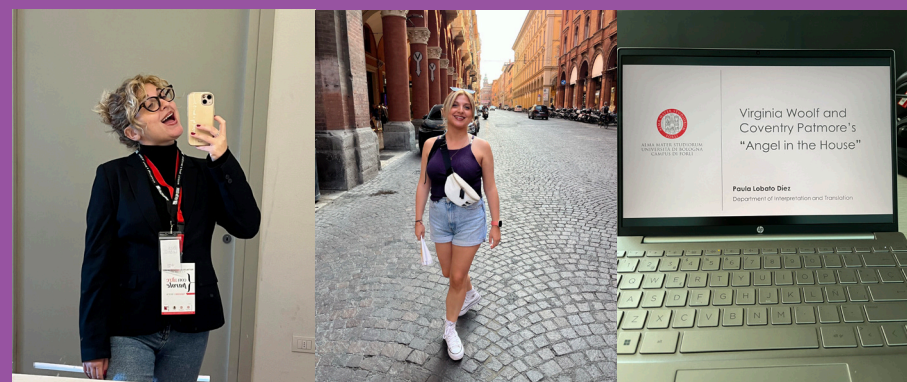
Gül, second from left, meeting Humza Yousaf, the First Minister of Scotland, at an event in Trinity College Dublin

offering extensive networking at high-profile events and substantial professional development, all underpinned by a supportive team dynamic. My gratitude for this experience is profound, reminding me of the enduring impact of culture and connection in building international understanding.

Paula Lobato Díez

UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA, ITALY

The University of Bologna is the oldest in Europe and one of the most prestigious. However, I was not expecting the small Italian town where the Department of Interpretation and Translation is located: Forlì. It was hard for me to adapt but the locals were remarkably welcoming and I soon found a way to make the best of my experience. Over the course of these past months I have had the opportunity to approach British, Irish and American literary works from a decolonial and gender-specific perspective, meet brilliant scholars and collaborate with them, improve my research skills and even give my own lectures on authors such as Virginia Woolf, Coventry Patmore, Sandra Cisneros, Alice Walker or Toni Morrison. Along with that, I found a complementary task at Kids&Us Forlì which completely pushed me out of my comfort zone as an educator: teaching children from age 1 following the “natural English” method; the best of both worlds. I have furthermore taken Italian classes and travelled all across the regions of Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Tuscany, Lazio and, of course, my beloved Emilia-Romagna; from Adriatic beaches to the Alps. During this challenging and decisive time in Italy I have grown as a person, become a better prepared professional and met extraordinary people whose smiles I will never forget. Grazie a tutti!



From left: Paula as a hostess in the Festival of Interpretation and Translation “Con altre parole”; Paula travelling in Bologna; one of her university lectures for undergraduate students

MA Theses

Class 2021-23

- Trade Relations between Germany and the UK following Brexit
- Start-up Ecosystems in Berlin and London after Brexit
- Literary Representations of Trauma in British Contemporary Fiction
- The Queen's Legacy in Britain's Public Media. Images and Impact of the Long Reign of Queen Elizabeth II on Perceptions of British National Identity
- Socioeconomic Inequality and the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Comparative Analysis of Glasgow and London
- Access to Reproductive Healthcare Information in the UK at the End of the 19th Century
- The Impact of Influencers on Body Images as Perceived by Ethnically Diverse Young Women in the United Kingdom
- To Smell, Taste and Touch the Uncanny: Representation of Women's Bodies in Contemporary Gothic Literature
- Literary Representation of Monarchy in Russia and Britain: Comparative Analysis
- A Comparative Study of Employer Branding as a Strategy in UK Organisations
- France and Italy in the Eyes of Selected British Authors: A comparative analysis of Tobias Smolett's *Travels Through France and Italy* and Henry James' *A Little Tour in France and Italian Hours*
- The Unholy Crusade: Religious Iconography in the Works by British Women Screenwriters
- From Smiles to Sales: Humour as a Strategy in UK Outdoor Advertising
- Political Media Campaigns During the Run-up and Aftermath to the EU Referendum
- Sustainability Marketing Strategies in the UK Luxury Fashion Industry
- Interpreting Virginia Woolf on Screen: An Intermedial Flow of her Narcissistic Textual Feature and Deconstructive Writing Style into Sally Potter's 'Orlando'
- Women in a 'Disunited' Kingdom: Multifaceted Understanding of Regional Divergence on Gendered Devolution
- A Historical Analysis of Alexander Pope's 'The Temple of Fame'

Graduation

Only the second in-person graduation following the pandemic, once again staff and new alumni met for a celebration in April 2023.

And once again there was a festive atmosphere when everyone reviewed the students' recent achievements, heard of first jobs, reconnected with friends, and proud family members were shown the premises. We are pleased that almost all our students complete their degrees despite the pandemic and other challenges such as high inflation in their home countries, natural disasters and subsequent hardship. The Centre's staff take pastoral care very seriously and try to find solutions for individual cases and this results in one of the university's highest completion rates. This would of course not work if our students did not dedicate so much time and effort to reaching their goals but by working together and giving early support and advice on mental health issues, managing the writing process, and sometimes even on finding an English-language job in Berlin, staff and students both contribute to these unusual rates.



Alumni

Riley Linebaugh joined the Centre in 2023 and replaced Sam McIntosh in engaging with the Centre's alumni and keeping them informed about relevant events and job opportunities both on an ad hoc basis through the alumni email list and through the yearly Alumni Newsletter.

As always, if any readers know of relevant job opportunities for our MA British Studies students and alumni, please do let us know and we will circulate the information on the alumni email list. Please note, however, that we do not generally forward information on unpaid internships or on jobs that lack any connection to the UK or Ireland or the English language. If there are alumni reading this who are not on the email list and would like to be, please just drop Riley an email at riley.linebaugh@hu-berlin.de.



Please come and see us whenever you are in Berlin. It is always great to see you again. In 2023, Etna Ávalos (2007-09), and Phillip Wells-Rhoden (2016-18) visited us, and it was good to catch up and hear what life has been like for them since their graduation.

What happened to ...

ERIC BERGMAN
Class 2011-2013

I graduated from GBZ in 2013. A lot has happened since then! Undoubtedly the most momentous change has been the fact that Marina, my wife (an ethnologist from Split), and I have three boys: Luka (14; my step-son), Pavle (8), and Arne (7). It's like running a marathon in slow-motion for many years, but instead of paper cups of water, they hand out doses of profundity. For example, us Finns are



Eric with the extended family on the island Šolta, Croatia, where Marina's parents live

crippingly self-aware of bothering other's space. Arne was blocking the sidewalk in Helsinki and I told him, "Arne, watch out for the people." Arne looked around and said, "the people can look out for ME!" My professional milestone was defending my PhD in comparative literature at the University of Helsinki last February. My opponent was Prof Frederick Luis Aldama, who is like the Mick Jagger of Chicana Studies (the study of Mexican American culture, etc.). I was honoured to spar with him. The dissertation, much to my amazement, received the top grade, and I'm converting it into a book for a US publisher. Spending eight years conducting hard-core literary research began to prepare me for my current job, which is as a high school humanities teacher in Zagreb, Croatia. It's actually a bit like GBZ, interdisciplinary as heck. I wish all current, past, and future GBZ students and staff all the best!

ALEENA FAROOQ
Class 2018-2020

After graduating in February 2022, I initially planned to go for a PhD, but life had other (better) plans. I briefly worked in the Consular Section at the Embassy of Pakistan – a very demanding role with a broad range of tasks to learn from. Since September 2022, I am working in the Exams department at the British Council. I started as an Exams Assistant and was promoted to my current role of Exams Coordinator last April. The exams department depends mostly on tight deadlines, which is what makes it exciting and challenging at the same time. I have had the opportunity to visit different cities within Germany to see how our operations run and it has been a great learning experience. Working at the British Council has allowed me to grow professionally, something that I am extremely grateful for. From seeing King Charles in Hamburg in 2023 to being featured on our CEO's LinkedIn for my work, I'd say working here has overall been rewarding. One amazing side of working at the British Council is always hearing about the GBZ, which gives me this wonderful sense of connection. Personally, life in Berlin has been the way it has always been: fast, interesting, kind and full of funny weather. I started 2024 by finally moving into my 'home' with my lovely cat Richard after a year-long apartment hunt, so I do not think I can complain anymore.



Aleena graduated in 2020 and is now working at the British Council in Berlin

Teaching at other Faculties

LECTURES: EUROPEAN CONTRACT LAW

Prof Dannemann gave this series of lectures at the Humboldt's Law Faculty during the winter term 2022/23. The lectures treat core issues of contract law from a comparative perspective with particular reference to EU, English, German, and French law.

BRITISH HISTORY SEMINARS

Prof Taylor offered two seminars to students of Humboldt's History Department, one on 'British culture and empire since the 18th century', and one on 'Brexit and the crisis of the British Constitution'. During 26-30 June he taught a summer school on 'John Stuart Mill and Victorian liberalism' in the History Department of Fudan University, Shanghai, China.

Events

Inaugural Lecture

'INTELLIGIBLE GOVERNMENT'? RETHINKING THE MEANING OF MONARCHY IN THE AGE OF CHARLES III PROF DR MILES TAYLOR

Centre for British Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

4 May

On the eve of the coronation, it seems appropriate to re-assess the meaning of monarchy in modern Britain. The new King heads a fractured royal family, a divided nation, and a disaffected Commonwealth. How can we as scholars make sense of where the monarchy has been, and where it might be going?

This lecture suggested we need a new approach. Through a critical analysis of three classic studies of monarchy: Walter Bagehot's *The English constitution* (1867), Kingsley Martin's *The magic of monarchy* (1937) and Tom Nairn's *The enchanted glass* (1988), the lecture traced the lineage of modern interpretations of the British monarchy and points up their limitations. Preoccupied with the symbolism of



Prof Miles Taylor, Chair of British History

monarchy, conventional scholarship neglects its important political functions. As the lecture concluded, in the era of Brexit at home and populist regimes around the world, modern democracies may actually need monarchy more than ever before.

Miles Taylor joined the Centre in 2021 as Professor of British History and Society. He was previously Professor of Modern History at the University of York and is a 19th century specialist with a particular interest in Britain and its empire. Due to the pandemic he had to postpone his inaugural lecture and was now enjoying a big audience and a warm introduction by Prof Sir Christopher Clark, Regius Professor of History, University of Cambridge.



A large crowd came to listen to Prof Taylor's Inaugural Lecture on the monarchy under the new king, introduced by Prof Christopher Clark and followed by a lively reception with guests, staff and students

Keynote Lecture 2023

DECOLONISATION AT THE VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM DR TRISTRAM HUNT

Director, Victoria and Albert Museum London

8 May

With a collection born of the East India Company and material whose origins stretch across the British Empire, the ethics and practice of restitution is of growing importance to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. In this lecture historian and V&A Director Dr Tristram Hunt argued that museums should be less concerned about becoming sites of 'transitional justice,' adjudicating on the colonial past, and focus more on detailed, trans-national provenance research. Through biographies of objects with so-called 'contested heritage,' Dr Hunt explained the V&A



Keynote 2023: Dr Tristram Hunt

strategy of Renewable Cultural Partnerships and how museums can engage with, and develop from, the coming era of restitution and repatriation. Dr Tristram Hunt is the Director of the V&A, the world's leading museum of art, design and performance. Since taking up the post in 2017, he has championed design education in UK schools, encouraged debate around the history of the museum's global collections and overseen the transition to a multi-site museum, with the opening of V&A Dundee, the creation of Young V&A (formerly V&A Museum of Childhood), and the development of V&A East – a new museum and open access collections centre in Stratford, East London. Formerly Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent, he has a doctorate in Victorian history from Cambridge University and is the author of several books including, most recently, *The Radical Potter: Josiah Wedgwood and The Transformation of Britain* (2021).

Monday Lectures

ROUNDTABLE BOOK LAUNCH PROFESSOR STUART WARD

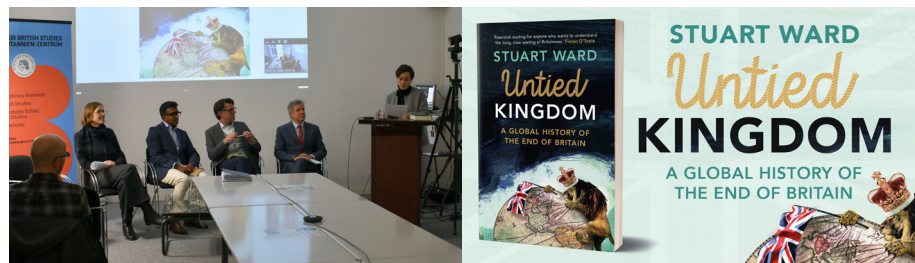
Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen

13 February

Stuart Ward's *Untied Kingdom: A Global History of the End of Britain* was published by Cambridge University Press in February 2023. It tells the panoramic history of the end of Britain, tracing the ways in which Britishness has been imagined, experienced, disputed and ultimately discarded across the globe since the end of the Second World War.

Our roundtable participants for this presentation were: Almuth Ecke (Universität Mannheim), Caroline Kögler (WWU Münster), Harshan Kumarasingham (University of Edinburgh) and Stuart Ward. The panel was moderated by Miles Taylor (GBZ).

Stuart Ward (third from left) discussing his new book with guests



IRELAND'S UNMARRIED FATHERS PROF CLAIR WILLS FBA, HONMRIA

King Edward VII Professor of English Literature, University of Cambridge

Respondent

PROF GISELA HOLFTER

Director, Centre for Irish-German Studies, University of Limerick

31 May

The scandal surrounding Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes has focused, for obvious reasons, on the women and children involved. But what of Ireland's unmarried fathers? What sources can we use to uncover the stories of men involved in unwanted pregnancies, and how and where are they represented? Clair Wills arrived in Cambridge in 2018 to take up the post of King Edward VII Professor of English Literature, having previously taught at Princeton in the United States, Queen Mary University of London, and the University of Essex. She did her graduate work in the late 1980s in Oxford, on contemporary Northern Irish poetry, especially the poetry of Paul Muldoon and Medbh McGuckian. Since then Clair has maintained a strong interest in Irish literature and history, including research on Irish feminism and women's writing, the history of Ireland during the Second World War, and post-war Irish emigration to England. Recent work has looked at the cultural history of post-war immigration to Britain, and of psychiatric hospitals and carceral institutions in Britain and Ireland.

Clair Wills' research interests are Irish literature and history; twentieth and twenty-first century poetry, fiction and memoir; gender and sexuality; migration; embodiment. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy and writes regularly for the *London Review of Books* and *New York Review of Books*.



Respondent Prof Gisela Holfter and host Prof Gesa Stedman



Prof Clair Wills gave her lecture remotely via Zoom

Enjoying the Centre's summer lectures



WHAT IS POLITICAL DEFERENCE AND CAN IT HELP REPAIR THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION TODAY?

PROF CATHERINE MARSHALL

Professor of British Studies, CY Cergy Paris Université
Oliver Smithies Visiting Fellow 2023, Balliol College, Oxford

3 July



Prof Marshall on the British Constitution

What is political deference? Is there any point today in trying to retrieve a type of political respect specific to the Anglo-British constitution which has been discarded as analytically worthless and politically broken since the 1970s? The aim of this lecture was to look at this slippery concept, retrace its genealogy back to Walter Bagehot in the mid-Victorian period and retrieve its value for the present UK system of government at a time when its vulnerability has been exposed by the Johnson years. The ultimate question is how to retain some form of the older positive idea of deference – an ethics of deference – while adapting it to a new political landscape in which British constitutional

principles have been compromised.

Catherine Marshall is full Professor in British Studies (political history) at Cergy Paris Université, Director of the 'History of political and economic ideas' axis of the AGORA research centre and Director of the MA 'Political Ideas in a Digital Age'. Her research is in British intellectual and political history during the Victorian period and its legacy. Her most recent monograph is *Political Deference in a Democratic Age. British Politics and the Constitution from the Eighteenth Century to Brexit* (Palgrave, 2021).

ACCOUNTING FOR BRITISH HISTORY: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF COLONIALISM AND EMPIRE

PROF GURMINDER K. BHAMBRA FBA FACSS FRHISTS

Professor of Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies, University of Sussex

30 October

The history of Britain tends to be presented in terms of a national past where that national past has, in turn, been central to the emergence of a global economic order, capitalism. The separation of the political as national and the economy as global elides the histories of colonialism and empire that connect

the two. In the process, this renders empire an apparent irrelevance to the construction of political institutions and practices of the British state. In this talk, Prof Bhambra suggested that the history of Britain is more effectively understood in the context of a political economy of colonialism and empire. Gurminder K Bhambra is Professor of Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies at the University of Sussex. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Historical Society and is currently President of the British Sociological Association. She is co-author of *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory* (2021) with John Holmwood and the award-winning *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination* (2007). She is currently working on a Leverhulme Trust funded project on 'Varieties of Empire, Varieties of Colonialism'.



Prof Bhambra on the political economy of colonialism and empire

Legacies and Afterlives of the Empire: Public Reading

POETRY COLLECTION 'UN/SAFE' AND OTHER POEMS

KAREN MCCARTHY WOOLF

Writer, Poet, Editor and Critic

20 November

Born in London to English and Jamaican parents, Karen McCarthy Woolf is the author of two poetry collections and the editor of six literary anthologies. Shortlisted for the Forward Felix Dennis and Jerwood Prizes, her debut *An Aviary of Small Birds* tells the story of losing a son in childbirth and was an *Observer* Book of the Year. Her latest, *Seasonal Disturbances*, explores gentrification, the city and the sacred, was a winner in the inaugural Laurel Prize for ecological poetry and excerpted in the *Financial Times* and the *Guardian*. In 2019 she moved to Los Angeles as a Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholar and Writer in



Karen McCarthy Woolf (left) in conversation with Sonya Permiakova

Residence at the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA, exploring the relationship between poetry, law and capitalism's impacts on black, brown and indigenous bodies. After returning to the UK she travelled to Brazil in 2021 as an artist in residence at the Sacatar Institute in Bahia to research new work that explores sugar and its cultural and material legacies. Karen also writes for radio and recent highlights include a multi-authored adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* which was nominated for a BBC Audio Award in 2020 and a re-versioning of Homer's *Book of the Dead* in which Odysseus is reimagined as a London cab driver for BBC Radio 4's *Book of the Week*. She has served as Chair and Judge of the Brunel International African Poetry Prize several times and was a judge of the National Poetry Competition in 2021 which made literary history when the panel awarded the prize to a black writer for the first time in 40 years.

THE ENGLISH CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: ADVERSARIAL JUSTICE, JURIES AND THE JUDGE AS REFEREE
BERNARD RICHMOND KC

Honorary Professor, Kent Law School University of Kent

4 December

Our lecture hall was packed when Bernard Richmond, one of the most distinguished legal practitioners in the UK, explained in a lively lecture and engaged debate the workings of the criminal justice system in England and Wales, illuminating the audience on what it means to work with juries composed of laypersons, and case law rather than a criminal code. Bernard Richmond was called to the bar in 1998, made a bencher of Middle Temple in 2005, and a Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 2006. Since 2002, he has also been working as part-time judge. He is Director of Studies of Middle Temple Advocacy and the Chair of Middle Temple's Education and Training Committee, and an honorary Professor at Kent Law School. Bernard Richmond was recently elected to become the treasurer of Middle Temple in 2026, in fact the head of this venerable institution.



Prof Bernard Richmond explaining the workings of the Criminal Justice system in England and Wales

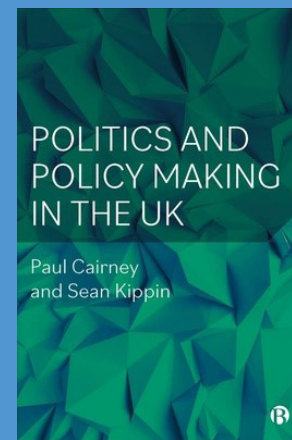
Online book launch

POLITICS AND POLICY MAKING IN THE UK
PROFESSOR PAUL CAIRNEY

Professor of Politics and Public Policy, University of Stirling
 and
DR SEAN KIPPIN

Lecturer of Public Policy, University of Stirling

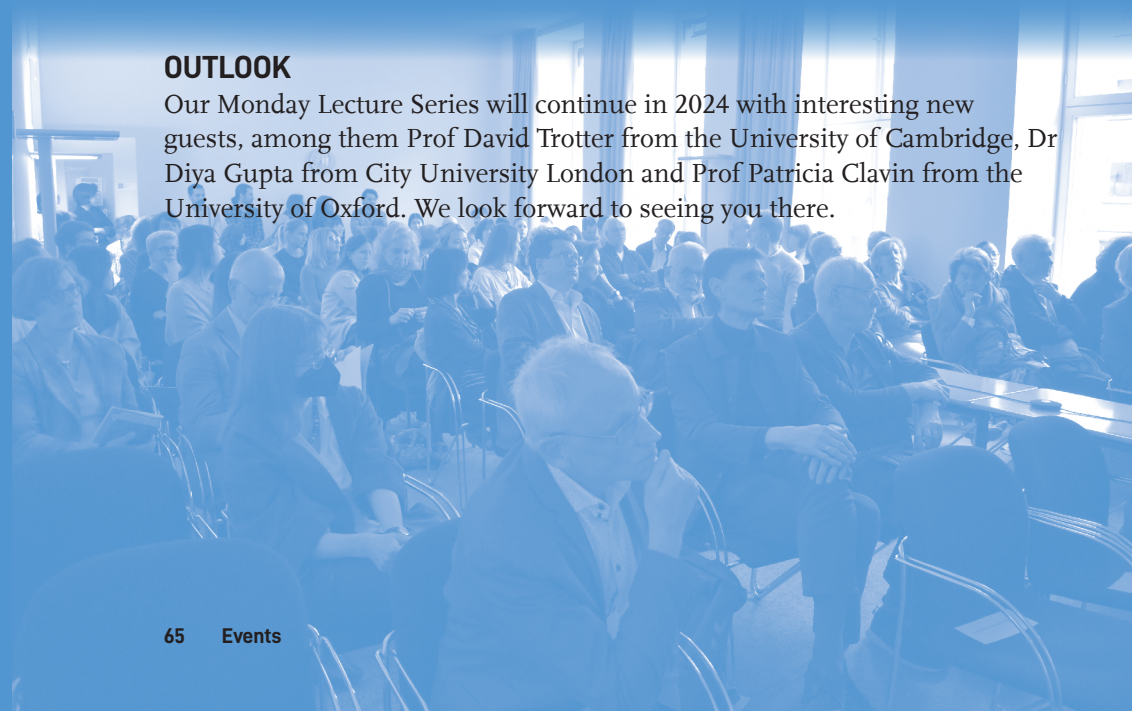
11 December



Over the past decade, the UK has experienced major policy changes. This new textbook by leading experts Paul Cairney and Sean Kipping, offers a fresh, accessible, and authoritative introduction to contemporary policy making in the UK. Encompassing twelve chapters on theoretical approaches, state transformation, COVID-19, Brexit, environmental politics, economic policy, social policy, and foreign policy, it equips students with a deep and comprehensive understanding of the key theoretical and empirical issues in this field: Cairney, P. and Kippin, S., *Politics and Policy Making in the UK*, Bristol: BUP, 2023. The launch took place online and had the GBZ audience discuss key issues, chaired by Dr Chiocchetti.

OUTLOOK

Our Monday Lecture Series will continue in 2024 with interesting new guests, among them Prof David Trotter from the University of Cambridge, Dr Diya Gupta from City University London and Prof Patricia Clavin from the University of Oxford. We look forward to seeing you there.



Visiting the Centre Advisory Board

The annual meeting with our Advisory Board took place on 26 May. We updated them on our public activities, research successes, book publications, and the problems the GBZ encountered in the past year. At the time, we were struggling with not knowing how high our budget for 2023 was going to be, an issue which has now been resolved with early budgeting instituted at the HU. The question of how to implement the structural changes that the Berlin Senate requires of so-called “Zentralinstitute”, particularly pertaining to the allocation of professorships to other faculties, was also discussed, and of course the fall-out from Brexit which has hit our student mobility scheme rather hard. The Board was happy with our alternative routes, including remote placements and ones in other EU countries including Ireland, pending new political developments which will hopefully once again allow students to travel to the UK for short-term placements.

On a more positive note, however, the Board congratulated us on an impressive series of workshops and lectures; and the discussion with the students revealed that they are apparently the most satisfied group ever, apart from the mobility issue which obviously was down to the UK government and not the GBZ itself.

The Board’s long-standing chairman and very good friend of the Centre, Sir Paul Lever, stood down as chairman and member of the Board, with Lord Simon McDonald to take over as chairman. Prof Andreas Gestrich’s time on the Board also ended at the end of 2023 because he retired from academia some years ago, and the former Director Germany of the British Council, Paul Smith, also stepped down due to retirement. In 2024, the Board will welcome two new members, journalist Annette Dittert (ARD London) and Helga Stellmacher, Director Germany of the British Council (Berlin).



Visitors

BRITISH COUNCIL DELEGATION NOVEMBER

In November 2023, a delegation from the British Council visited the Centre. The new Director Germany Helga Stellmacher was accompanied by her colleagues Ailsa Kienberger, responsible for higher education, Lucy Curzon, who has taken over the culture portfolio, and Michael Crossdale who runs the language testing department.

The delegation was pleased to learn that the Centre has such long-standing relations with the British Council, ranging from the initial donation of books for the Centre’s library to providing placements at the Berlin office and elsewhere in Europe, to acting as the sponsor for the certificate of sponsorship programme for visas for foreign students. While this particular form of cooperation has come to an end because there are no visa provisions for work placements to the UK at the moment, the British Council has developed a new placement for the Centre’s students following this visit, and staff members from both organisations continue to do all they can to convince the British government that student mobility should once again allow students to spend time in the UK as part of the MA British Studies.

Helga Stellmacher has also kindly agreed to join the Centre’s Advisory Board.

KIERAN DRAKE DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, BRITISH EMBASSY BERLIN

Kieran Drake, Deputy Head of the British Embassy in Berlin, paid another visit to the Centre on 6 February, when he met the Centre’s staff and discussed with our students the work of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Berlin Embassy in particular, with an emphasis on current policy challenges faced by a national representation abroad. Our students were greatly interested and curious about the daily workings at the Embassy and therefore had many questions to ask.

The opportunity to get first-hand experience from a diplomat of the British Embassy



Public Relations

Every year, the staff at the Centre for British Studies is approached by the media for expert commentary: explaining British matters to German media outlets – and vice versa.

In March, the state visit of King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla was widely covered by the German and the British press. Prof Dannemann was asked to comment on the occasion for the cover story in *Stern* magazine as well as for the BBC. In May, Prof Dannemann also gave a live interview to *Radio Bremen Zwei* on the subject of King Charles' coronation. As a member of VroniPlag Wiki, Prof Dannemann was often asked to comment on issues of plagiarism: this year, his commentary appeared in *die Zeit*, *FAZ*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and other media outlets.

To promote the MA British Studies programme abroad, Prof Gesa Stedman and Dr Paolo Chiochetti collaborated on an interview for *Almalaurea*, the official Italian university directory. It was the first piece written in Italian about the Centre. Prof Stedman also acted as an expert advisor for the programme '*Wissen macht AH!*' which is run by the ARD and included a show on the origin of the sandwich as a staple of international food provision.

Also in 2023, Dr Kalika Mehta, Dr Riley Linebaugh, and Sonya Permiakova started the "Decolonise the Wall" initiative, which was supported by other members of staff and students. *Tagesspiegel* wrote a short news story about the initiative.

Most interviews and articles, as well as the blog, can be accessed via our website www.gbz.hu-berlin.de. The Centre also has an account on 'X', which you can follow at @GBZ_HUBerlin for the latest news, public events and media appearances. For updates on our events and annual student cultural project, follow us on Instagram at @british_berlin. You can furthermore follow us on Facebook for regular updates, www.facebook.com/CentreforBritishStudies.



Knowledge transfer: In a cooperation with the University of Oxford, Prof Stedman organised an exhibition on 'Happy in Berlin' for the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* where a Berlin audience has the opportunity to learn about current research activities

Fellows

Honorary Fellows

The Right Honourable Ben Bradshaw, MP

Sir Paul Lever KCMG

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

Dr habil Marius Guderjan, Freie Universität Berlin

Prof Gisela Holfter, University of Limerick, Ireland

Dr Hugh Mackay, The Open University, Wales

Dr Gerry Mooney, The Open University, Scotland

Dr Carlo Morelli, University of Dundee

Dr Pikay Richardson, Manchester Business School

Prof Dr Steven Truxal, Leiden University

Prof Dr Helmut Weber, LLB, Centre for British Studies

Prof Dr Roland Wenzlhuemer, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Dr Adrian Wilding, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena



First row (from left): Sylvena Zöllner, Corinna Radke, Gesa Stedman, Catherine Smith
 Second row: Evi Heinz, Gerhard Dannemann, Riley Linebaugh, Miles Taylor
 Third row: Kalika Mehta, Sonya Permiakova, Paolo Chiocchetti, Vishal Vora, Christine Seuring, Jürgen Schlaeger, Evelina Bazaeva

Staff

Academic Staff

PROF DR GESA STEDMAN

Director, Dean of Research

Apart from her roles as Director and Dean of Research, Gesa Stedman is also responsible for Oxford-Berlin and the Monday Lecture Series at the Centre. She is Professor of British Culture and Literature, and 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 before re-joining the Centre as Professor of British Culture and Literature 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). Together with Prof Stefano Evangelista (Oxford), she heads the Einstein Oxford Berlin Research Project "Boundaries of Cosmopolis". Gesa Stedman is the spokesperson of the Berlin Graduate School for British Studies and is a member of the Berlin University Alliance Humanities Oxford Berlin consultation group. She was elected to Humboldt-Universität's "Konzil" and is a member of the committee for a family-friendly university and was involved in developing HU's mission statement on higher education teaching. Gesa Stedman also acts as Liaison Professor for the German foundation *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes* which provides scholarships for gifted students.

PROF DR MILES TAYLOR

Deputy Director, Dean of Studies

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

PROF DR GERHARD DANNEMANN, MA (OXON)

Dean of International Affairs, Head of Exams and Admissions

Professor of English Law, British Economy and Politics, Director (until September 2023), Chair of Admissions and Examinations, Dean of International Affairs. 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*. On the MA British Studies programme, he teaches 'English Legal System', 'Contracts', and 'Commercial Law', and co-teaches 'Constitutional Law and Political System'.

DR PAOLO CHIOCCHETTI

Lecturer and Researcher in British Politics. Before joining the Centre in 2022, Paolo studied International Relations at the University of Bologna, was awarded a PhD in European Studies from King's College London, and held postdoctoral positions at the University of Luxembourg, the Humboldt-Universität, and the European University Institute in Fiesole. His main research interests focus on political behaviour and institutions in Western Europe, European integration, and economic and social policy-making. 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: interdisciplinary perspectives* (Routledge, 2019), and several journal articles and book chapters. For the MA British Studies, he teaches or co-teaches courses on 'Constitutional Law and Political System', 'Analysing British Politics', 'Self, Society, and Agency', and 'British International Relations'. Other responsibilities at the Centre include the supervision of MA theses on British politics, the coordination of the student mobility scheme, and membership in the GBZ Council.

DR EVI HEINZ

Evi Heinz is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the Einstein Foundation-funded project 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis' co-led by Prof Stefano Evangelista (University of Oxford) and Prof Gesa Stedman. Before taking up this position in 2023, she was a Research Associate in Book Studies at the English Department, University of Münster. She holds a PhD in English and Humanities from Birkbeck, University of London, an MSt in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford and a BA in English Literature from the University of Cambridge. Her research interests include English literary modernism, comparative literature, publishing history and periodical print culture. She has published several articles and book chapters on modernist print culture and is co-editor of *Whitechapel Moderns: An Anthology of Modernist Culture in London's Jewish East End* (forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press). Her current research as part of the 'Boundaries of Cosmopolis' project investigates the transmission of English literary culture in the Weimar Republic periodical *Der Querschnitt*.

DR RILEY LINEBAUGH

Postdoctoral lecturer and researcher in history. Riley is teaching Academic Writing I, 'Explorations in British History' and co-teaching 'Interdisciplinary Project: Self, Society, and Agency.' Her habilitation project examines the role of female secretaries and spies in the British empire in eastern Africa, south Asia and the metropole during the 19th and 20th centuries. Further research activities include archival histories and histories of archives, legacies of empire, and histories of decolonization. She received her PhD in history from Justus Liebig University, Giessen. She holds an MA in Archives and Records Management from University College London and a BA in history from the University of Michigan. In addition to her work as a historian, Riley has worked as an archivist in the U.S. (at the Joseph Labadie collection), England (at the Wellcome Collection and British Library), and Uganda (at the High Court of Justice, and Kabale and Jinja District Archives).

DR KALIKA MEHTA

Kalika Mehta is a Lecturer and Researcher in Law at the GBZ. Before taking up this position in July 2023, she had been at the Centre since September 2022 as Research Coordinator for the DFG-funded project on F.A. Mann and his contribution to English, German, European and International Law. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg, Germany, and an LL.M. from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. She is qualified to practice law in India. Her work at the Centre includes teaching/co-teaching 'Constitutional Law and Political System' and 'Advanced Academic Writing and Debating'. This year she is serving as the co-cordinator of the student mobility scheme of the MA British Studies. She also organises the Centre's Lunch Talk series.

EVELINA BAZAEVA, MA

Evelina Bazaeva started her role as Lecturer and Researcher in British Culture and Literature at the Centre for British Studies in March 2023. She holds an MA in British Studies with distinction from Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Following her internship as teaching assistant at Queen Mary University of London and graduation from the Centre, she went on to pursue a PhD under the joint supervision of the Faculty of English and American Studies and the Centre for British Studies. Her research focuses on the intersection of inter-war British women writing and film theory in the early 20th century and the broader role of intermediality in Anglo-American modernisms. After receiving

the DAAD Fellowship for Completion of Degree in 2021, she spent two terms as a visiting PhD researcher at the University of Cambridge as part of the Erasmus + Mobility programme. This year, her project was awarded funding by the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership, which resulted in a research trip to the archives of the University of Oxford. She is currently working on her thesis, along with other projects pertaining to the field of comparative literature, the history of the novel, and intermediality. As a member of the Centre's academic staff, she has taught courses on Academic Writing and Cultural Project Management (CPM).

SOFIA PERMIAKOVA, MA

Sofia (Sonya) Permiakova has been a lecturer and researcher in British Literature and Culture since 2019, although she joined the Centre for British Studies much earlier, in 2013, as a Master student. As a member of the Berlin Graduate School of British Studies, she has recently submitted her PhD thesis on twenty-first-century women's war poetry and WWI commemoration in the UK (viva in early spring 2024). Her research interests include the representation of women in literature and art, cinematic ekphrasis in poetry and fiction, representation of urban spaces in literature and art, and poetry – from the early 20th century until today. Her new research project focuses on Anglo-Russian networks and translations from Russian into English in the 1910s and 1920s. Over the years at the Centre, Sonya has conceptualized and taught numerous courses, such as 'Literature Workshop', 'Cultural Project Management', 'Literary Films and Cinematic Novels', 'Britons in Berlin. The Berlin Myth' (together with Prof Stedman and Felicia Kompio), 'Academic Writing', and 'War Silences, War Stories'. For her teaching, Sonya was twice shortlisted for the HU teaching prize.



Administrative Staff

CORINNA RADKE, MA

Corinna studied English and Spanish at Humboldt-Universität and in Madrid, 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. She furthermore participates in a working group on the implementation of a central alumni tool as part of the new HU campus management system HisInOne. 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. She also edits the Centre's annual report.

CATHERINE SMITH, BA (HONS)

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



From left: Corinna Radke, Sylvena Zöllner and Catherine Smith administrating the Centre

SYLVENA ZÖLLNER

Administrative officer at the Centre. Sylvena is a qualified administration and finance clerk. She 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, including its various and constantly growing third-party funds, for the supply of office material, technical equipment, and everything else needed. She also helps with the organisation of conferences. Her responsibilities furthermore include the MA exams administration, the filing of all student records and issuing 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 library in 2017 and is happy to answer any questions to do with finding information.

Student Assistants

The Centre would like to give a big thank you to the following student assistants for their tireless support to the Centre in 2023:

- Lavinia Adler, English Studies
- Ricarda Callies, Law
- Mhairi Gador-Whyte, History
- Eva Grotheer, Law
- Svala Hess, Cultural Studies and English
- Chengrui Hu, Social Sciences
- Rachael Imlay, European Literatures
- Lara Jungbeck, Law
- Olga Lesiewicz, English and Media Studies
- Dishari Sadhukhan, Global History

Valuable and always friendly support for the Centre: Lavinia, Lara, Dishari, Rachael, and Eva (from left)



Sponsors

The Centre for British Studies would like to thank the following institutions for their generous support in 2023:

- Einstein Stiftung Berlin
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
- Oxford Berlin Partnership, Berlin University Alliance
- Humboldt-Universitäts-Gesellschaft
- Erasmus+, European Union
- Nottingham Law School
- Experiment e.V.



Einstein Stiftung Berlin
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HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT
ZU BERLIN
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UNIVERSITÄTS
GESELLSCHAFT



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

The 'Friends of the Centre' continued to support our students and activities. Many of our members attended our public events during the year, and it was good to meet many of them at the inaugural lecture of Prof Miles Taylor in May.

In the meantime, with the war in Ukraine still ongoing, some of our students and applicants from both sides of the conflict have faced serious problems with money transfers and mobility.

Furthermore, at the beginning of the year, an earthquake hit Turkey and Syria with devastating consequences, and we have students' families who have lost relatives. For all of them the Centre has been trying to provide comfort and support, but our resources for such efforts are limited. So, any additional help that enables us to continue helping our students with problems, is highly welcome!

Our registered charity 'Förderverein des Großbritannien-Zentrums' was specifically set up to do that. So, if you are willing to contribute to our efforts, please donate whatever you can to the following bank account (donations are tax deductible in Germany):

**Förderverein des
Großbritannien-Zentrums der HU Berlin
Berliner Volksbank
IBAN: DE53 1009 0000 8848 1830 09
SWIFT Code: BEVODEBB**

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Mohrenstraße 60 | 10117 Berlin | www.gbz-hu-berlin.de

Advisory Board



Chairperson

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Simon McDonald
of Salford, KCMG, KCVO**

Former Permanent Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office;
Former British Ambassador to Germany,
Master, Christ's College, Cambridge



The Rt. Hon. Ben Bradshaw

Member of Parliament for Exeter
Former Secretary of State for
Culture, Media and Sport



Prof Dr Christina von Hodenberg

Director
German Historical Institute London



Annette Dittert

Author and Journalist
Head of ARD Studio in London



Prof Lyndal Roper

Regius Professor of History
Oriel College, University of Oxford



Prof Stefano Evangelista

Professor of English and Compara-
tive Literature
Trinity College, University of Oxford



Helga Stellmacher

Director
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& Commerce



The Rt. Hon. Lord David Willetts

Executive Chair,
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