

FAREWELL LECTURE

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

Mon 2 May 2022

17:00 hours s.t.

Senatssaal, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
1. Etage, Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

Professor Dr Christiane Eisenberg

Chair British History and Society 1998-2021

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Modern capitalism began in England when, after the Glorious Revolution, Parliament approved the establishment of a National Debt, the Bank of England brokered the refinancing from tax revenues and the Stock Market in the City of London opened up new opportunities for money speculation. In this time of upheaval, wagers and bets, which had been part of the sociability of merchants and tradesmen since the Middle Ages, developed new economic functions within the framework of capitalist economic activity. This lecture explains the social framework and practices of the merchant betting tradition and shows how they eased the transition to a new economic mode both for individuals and the state.

Christiane Eisenberg was Professor of British History and Society at the Centre for British Studies until her retirement in October 2021. She also served as Director in 2008-10, 2013-15 and 2019-21. This lecture is her farewell to Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and her Berlin friends and colleagues.

Please note: due to changing COVID-19 restrictions, the details and the format of the events are subject to change. For the latest information see our website www.gbz.hu-berlin.de

Everyone is welcome to attend.