

## The conference

The conference investigates contemporary British writing published after the fall of the Berlin Wall, whose narrative focus lies on the Eastern and Central European past of the Cold War period – the so-called ‘second world’.

Organized by:

Prof. Dr. Katrin Berndt

English Literature and Culture

MLU Halle-Wittenberg

Institute for British and American  
Studies Adam-Kuckhoff-Straße 35

06108 Halle (Saale)

Germany

[secworld@anglistik.uni-halle.de](mailto:secworld@anglistik.uni-halle.de)



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT  
HALLE-WITTENBERG



The ‘Second World’  
in Contemporary British Writing  
International Conference at Martin-Luther-University  
Halle-Wittenberg

16-18 September 2022

## Friday, 16 September 2022

16.00-18.00

### Registration

(Melanchthonianum 'Medienraum')

17.00

### Opening & Welcome

(Melanchthonianum Lecture Hall XX)

Katrin Berndt (Institute for British and American Studies, MLU Halle-Wittenberg)

Ulrich Busse (Institute for British and American Studies, MLU Halle-Wittenberg)

17.30

### Keynote Lecture 1

(Melanchthonianum Lecture Hall XX)

Richard Brown (University of Leeds)

"McEwan's Art of the Possible ... Lessons on Fiction and the Political in his 'Second World' Writing from The Innocent to Sweet Tooth and Beyond"

Chair: Katrin Berndt

19.00-19.45 *Wine Reception*

(Melanchthonianum 'Medienraum')

20.00 *Conference Warming*

(Restaurant Mönchshof)

## Saturday, 17 September 2022

10.30-12.00

### Keynote Lecture 2

(Melanchthonianum Lecture Hall XX)

Ágnes Györke (Károli Gáspár University, Budapest)  
"Affective Encounters: The Second World in Contemporary British Fiction"

Chair: Katrin Berndt

12.00-13.00 *Lunch Break*

13.00-14.30

### Session 1

(Melanchthonianum Room D)

Melinda Dabis (Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest): "The Postsocialist 'Other' in Kazuo Ishiguro's The Unconsoled"

Ágnes Haraszts (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest): "The Postmodern Baroque as a Heterotopia for East-Central Europe in post-1989 British Fiction"

Chair: Oliver Bock

14.30-15.00 *Coffee Break*

(Melanchthonianum 'Medienraum')

15.00-16.30

### Session 2

(Melanchthonianum Room D)

Robert Kusek (Jagiellonian University, Kraków): "Like a spectre lurking inside her": The 'Second World' in Deborah Levy's Central European Nostographies"

Therese-Marie Meyer (MLU Halle- Wittenberg): "Liminal Morality: Complicity in Patrick McGuinness's The Last Hundred Days (2011)"

Chair: Mona Becker

17.30-19.00 **Guided Tour** Memorial Roter Ochse

19.30 *Conference Dinner* (Restaurant AVECIO)

## Sunday, 18 September 2022

11.00-12.30

### Keynote Lecture 3

(Melanchthonianum Lecture Hall XX)

Betiel Wasihun (University of Birmingham / Technical University Berlin)

"Retrotopian Settings for Traitors: John le Carré's Spy Fiction"

Chair: Andrew Wells

12.30-14.00 *Lunch Break*

14.00-16.00

### Session 3

(Melanchthonianum Room D)

Andrew Wells (Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel): "Memory, Ego-Documents, and Excavating the Socialist Past: Timothy Garton Ash's The File (1997) as Showcase of Historical Methodology"

Olga Trebyk (Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kiev): "Challenging Orthodoxy: Orwell's Legacy in Contemporary British Culture"

Katrin Berndt (MLU Halle-Wittenberg): "In the Middle of Elsewhere: Central German Retrotopias in British 'Second World' Fiction"

Chair: Oliver Bock

17.00 **Literaturhaus Halle**

### Reading and Discussion

Fiona Rintoul, *The Leipzig Affair* (2014)

Chair: Katrin Berndt

19.30

*Conclusion* (Restaurant Altes Postamt)