

Call for Papers

British Borders

The Annual Conference of the German Society for the Study of British Cultures (BritCult)
Universität des Saarlandes, 19 to 21 November 2020

Keynote speakers:

Maurice Fitzpatrick, film director and author, Heimbold Chair of Irish Studies at Villanova University
Chris Weedon, Professor Em. of Critical and Cultural Studies at Cardiff University

British borders, as all borders in general, are both processes and (provisional) end states. As the emerging field of border studies keeps emphasizing, borders are highly complex cultural constructs that have come into being as consequences of specific histories, and they are maintained, supervised, modified or even abolished through intricate cultural discourses and at times violent performative practices. At this conference, we seek to analyse and to discuss all kinds of British borders past and present, from the macro-level of borders between countries in the ages of imperialism and anglobalization to the micro-level of borders drawn between towns, pieces of land or public and private spaces. Some borders may only be, or have been, acknowledged by and visible to certain groups or individuals, and they will often be contested. Certainly, the 'backstopped' British border in Ireland, which is currently the only land border of the United Kingdom within the British Isles, has been at the centre of international attention since the Brexit referendum on 23 June 2016, and it will also be discussed at this conference. But we do not want to focus the critical attention on it exclusively since there are many other British borders that deserve critical debate in the field of cultural studies.

For the BritCult conference in 2020, we invite papers that may relate to, but need not be limited to, one of the following topics:

- the construction, deconstruction and reconstruction of British borders past and present
- the politics of British borders
- geographical, political, social and cultural borders in the UK as textual and performative practices
- British maritime borders
- future British borders
- borders as practices of exclusion and inclusion
- border constructions and surveillance
- border practices and posthumanism/AI
- borders and climate change

Please send abstracts of 250-300 words for 20-minute papers and short biographical notes by 8 March 2020 to the conference organisers:

Joachim Frenk (frenk@mx.uni-saarland.de)

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We are looking forward to your ideas and suggestions.