

Veranstalterin	Dr. Julia Boll
Thema	Key Concepts: 20th and 21st Century British Literature and Culture
Art der Veranstaltung	Vorlesung [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-7a, ENG-12, AA10, LAA9, LAA11, LAA12, LAA13, IAA21, SLM-WB, Master-WB, SG]
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-531
Zeit	Mo 14-16
Raum	(digital: asynchronous lectures + Q&A session)
Beginn	12.04.2021



Anglo-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare's public art work *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle* occupied the Fourth Plinth on London's Trafalgar Square in 2010 (image © 2021 Yinka Shonibare CBE [RA]).

This lecture series offers a survey of the 20th and 21st century in British Literature and Culture, from the 'long Edwardian summer' over Modernism's urge to "make it new!" and the Scottish literary Renaissance to an Empire that writes back, and from the 1948 *Windrush* generation to the 2016 Brexit votum. We will look at a century deeply engaged in warfare, but also chasing innocence, offering the notion of a "cool Britannia" and building up a veritable heritage industry.

These lectures will present you with a broad spectrum of authors, ranging

from E.M. Forster to Ali Smith, from James Joyce and Virginia Woolf to Jackie Kay, John Burnside and Carol Ann Duffy, from Nan Shepherd and Alasdair Gray to Hanif Kureishi and Bernardine Evaristo, and from John Osborne to Zinnie Harris. We will cover different genres and media, from theatre to novels, poetry and early film, music and visual art, thus introducing canonical and less canonical texts and cultural artifacts. The lectures will focus, for instance, on the socio-political

discourse of a sense of citizenship and nationhood, on literary and cultural movements of localism and regional revivals, and on the power of nostalgia. We will listen to Henry Wood and The Kinks, Oasis and PJ Harvey, and we will have a look at Tracey Emin's art as well as Charles Rennie Mackintosh's. We will encounter suffragettes, enthusiastic soldiers, pacifists, some elves,, and a dragon in the woods.

Specific features of the historical context essential for understanding contemporary cultural objects and movements will receive particular attention – such as the formation of the British Commonwealth and movements of decolonization, the radical social and political transformation brought forth by Thatcherism, and the slow crumbling of the welfare state. But we will also consider the rise of fantasy literature and questions of gender and identity.

Course Requirements:

- Three quizzes (pass/fail) during the term for all students
- M.A./M.Ed students are required to hand in a Close Reading Analysis in addition to the above (due **Sunday, 11th July 2021, 23:59**).