



53-542

Embodying Englishness

Veranstalter	Janina Wierzoch, M.A.
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II (Seminar Ib für Zulassungen bis WS 14/15)
Modul-Codes	AA-A2, ENG-6/a, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-W, AA-WB
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-542
Zeit	Montags 16-18
Raum	Phil 1269
Beginn	Montag, 12. Oktober 2015

Course description

Tea time, fish 'n chips, Brit pop and politeness – British culture is signified by a number of recognisable tags. Naturally, beyond these labels conceptions of British cultural and national identity are more complex as they are invested in the political and embedded in specific social and historical contexts. They are subject to change, following and at the same time shaping the development of tastes and demands.

Over the years, a number of historical and fictional figures in particular have come to promote different facets of what it means to be British (or English, for that matter) – to the nation and beyond. And we will investigate three of these icons in this seminar: Elizabeth I, Sherlock Holmes and James Bond. We will identify the ideas and values they embody and examine how their image changes over time as well as across different media of representation – and by association that of the nation. Engaging with these icons, we will discuss material from the 16th up to the 21st century including, but not limited to, speeches and portraits, novels, short stories and television series.

Conditions of participation

In addition to the usual primary and secondary literature, participants are required to watch a number of films/TV series to prepare for the sessions (up to 3 ½ hours per week). These will be made available for viewing at the Medienzentrum (Von-Melle-Park 5) and students have to schedule their own screening during the opening hours. In-class quizzes will make sure that all participants are acquainted with the material.

Credit requirements

Regular attendance, active participation in class, preparation of textual and audio-visual material for the sessions, an oral presentation (or similar) and a term paper (10–12 pages).