



Themenvorschläge für Abschlussarbeiten im Bereich Kulturstudien

Allgemeine Hinweise:

Dieses Dokument soll die Themenfindung für Abschlussarbeiten (BA, MA, Staatsexamen) im Bereich Kulturstudien / British Cultural Studies erleichtern, indem es **Forschungs- und Interessensgebiete** der möglichen Betreuer:innen bzw. Gutachter:innen der Abteilung auflistet und **Beispieltitel** bereits entstandener Abschlussarbeiten nennt. Weitere Informationen zu den Mitarbeiter:innen und ihren Schwerpunkten finden Sie auf der jeweiligen Webseite. Grundsätzlich sind auch weitere Themen möglich.

Generell ist es jedoch sinnvoll, sich einen Themenbereich für die Abschlussarbeit zu wählen, mit dem man im **Studium** bereits in Berührung gekommen ist – dies erleichtert die Literaturrecherche, die theoretische Fundierung sowie die Eingrenzung des Themas. Es ist unbedingt ratsam, sich vor der Festlegung auf ein Thema eingehend mit der Materie zu befassen; beginnen Sie deshalb nicht erst kurz vor der Antragstellung damit!

Jede:r Studierende sollte vor der Anmeldung ein **Mini-Exposé** zur Arbeit einreichen (1-2 S.): Thema, kurze Beschreibung des Untersuchungsschwerpunktes bzw. der Fragestellung sowie des Vorgehens (Theorie, Methodologie) und Literaturliste mit einigen zentralen Sekundärwerken.

Besprechen Sie Ihre Ideen bitte mit uns während der **Sprechzeiten**. Diese finden Sie auf der Homepage des Instituts.

Themenschwerpunkte der einzelnen Lehrenden

Dr. Dietmar Böhnke

- **(Neo-)Victorianism in British cultures** (e.g. critical analysis of media representations of Victorian times (or other eras); heritage cultures, Victorian ideologies and identities in contemporary culture and society, science and media in Victorianism, cultural presence of Darwin, Dickens, Wilde etc.)
- **British media cultures / media and politics** (e.g. analysis of political ideologies and their influence on the media, and/or of regional/national/social identities and/in the media; focus on British and Irish film and TV)

- **Regional and national identities on the British Isles**, esp. Scotland (critical/revisionist analysis of the role of regional identities on the British Isles (in a European and/or global context) from a historical and/or contemporary perspective; political developments like devolution, nationalism, Brexit, Northern Ireland conflict etc.; literary and media representations and constructions of regional identities)
- **Adaptation Studies** (analysis of adaptations/remakes/mash-ups in the broadest sense, in a variety of media: novels, film, TV, graphic novels, computer games etc.; esp. neo-Victorian adaptations; adaptation industry)
- **Publishing and Book Studies** (focus on history of publishing, nineteenth century, Tauchnitz Edition)

Dr. Ariane de Waal

- **Victorian studies** (e.g. Victorian medicine and the sciences; aspects of material culture; gendered/classed/racialised identities; the British Empire; the history of work; travel and mobility; popular culture and popular entertainments)
- **Contemporary British culture, media, and politics** (especially discourses and representations of terrorism and war; cultural responses to or negotiations of neoliberalism, climate change, and environmentalism; cultural constructions of pregnancy, birth, and parenthood)
- **Contemporary postcolonial cultures** (especially Indian or [British] South Asian cultural industries, e.g. Bollywood; Indian cinema; British South Asian theatre and performance)
- **Gender/queer/trans studies** (especially approaches to contemporary British/postcolonial cultures based on the works of Lauren Berlant, Lee Edelman, Elizabeth Grosz, Jack Halberstam, Angela McRobbie, José Esteban Muñoz, Jay Prosser, Jasbir Puar, and others)
- **New materialisms** (especially approaches to material culture based on the theories of Karen Barad, Jane Bennett, Claire Colebrook, Donna Haraway, etc.)
- **Critical whiteness studies** (cultural analyses of whiteness in historical or contemporary British/postcolonial contexts, especially with an intersectional lens)

Dr. Frauke Hofmeister

- **Place and identity** (e.g. constructions of national or regional identities in the British Isles (esp. in **Wales** and in England/particular English regions); transformation of particular places; concepts of urbanity and rurality, ...)
- **Politics UK** (e.g. media coverage of particular political events, characters, etc.; analysis of political speeches, ...)

- **The past in contemporary British culture** (e.g. heritage debates, interpretations of history, particular sites of memory (also in a postcolonial context), ...)
- **Debates in education** (curriculum and textbook analyses, education and politics, ...)
- **Childhood studies** (concepts of childhood in particular media representation; children in and out of place, ...)

Marlon Moßmann

- **Graphic narratives** (graphic novels and comic book studies)
- **Fandom studies** (fancultures and practices, transformative fandom, digital fandom and spaces)

Dr. David Nisters

- **late medieval and early modern cultures of reading** and the construction of the English vernacular reader, esp. between c.1400 and c.1550
- **material cultures**, esp. the material text and the cultural significance of the book
- **imagining and representing medieval Britain**, esp. in the nineteenth century

Dr. Harald Pittel

- **Late-Victorian/fin de siècle cultures** (for instance, early socialism, the aesthetic movement, decadent styles etc.)
- **Economic Criticism**, British working-class film and literature
- **Affect Studies** (in the wake of scholars such as Sara Ahmed, Jack Halberstam, Raymond Williams, Sianne Ngai and others)
- **Posthumanist Cultural Studies**
- **South-Asian history, politics and culture**

Prof. Dr. Joanna Rostek

- **Gender Studies**, with a particular focus on feminist topics
- **Migration Studies**, esp. Eastern European migrant culture in the UK and Ireland
- **Economic Criticism**, i.e. the interrelations of culture and media with the economy and the academic discipline of economics
- **Cultural Theory**, i.e. topics that engage with theoretical texts and questions
- **Brexit Discourse** in culture, media, and politics

- **Psychotherapy** in culture and media
- **The History of Thought and Knowledge**, e.g. the rise of academic disciplines
- **Inter- and Transdisciplinary Topics**
- **Historical Cultural Studies**, esp. from the 18th century onwards
- **Blue Humanities**: cultural representations and discourses on oceans and the sea

Beispiele für frühere Abschlussarbeiten im Bereich British Cultural Studies (in alphabetischer Reihenfolge):

- A Critical Analysis of 'Bloody Sunday' and Its Representation in Paul Greengrass's *Bloody Sunday* (BA)
- A New Female Economy of Pleasure and Power: An Analysis of Feminist Porn by Erika Lust
- A Princess Breaking Tradition: A Feminist Reading of the Female Character Merida in Disney's and Pixar's *Brave* (BA)
- A Renaissance of Scots? A Literary and Cultural Perspective (SX)
- Adapting Jane Austen's *Emma* (SX)
- *Assassin's Creed Syndicate* as a Neo-Victorian Text: Reworking the History of London and Its Marginalised Voices (BA)
- Assertions of Welshness in Contemporary Welsh Tourism Marketing (BA)
- British Populism? The Political Communication of the Johnson Government (MA)
- Cancel Culture as Practices of Normalising Power within Participatory Culture (SX)
- Cinematic Representations of Elizabeth I in Shekhar Kapur's Films *Elizabeth: The Virgin Queen* and *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (MA)
- Concepts of Childhood in British Fairy Tale Adaptations. Little Red Riding Hood through the Ages (SX)
- Concepts of Englishness in H.V. Morton's *In Search of England* and Bill Bryson's *Notes from a Small Island* (MA)
- Construction and Representation of Masculinity in Contemporary Scottish Film (MA)
- Contemporary Ideas of Childhood in Representations of Children During the Industrial Revolution in the UK (SX)
- Contemporary Representations of the North of England: Three Case Studies (SX)
- Cringe Comedy and Toxic Masculinity in *Peep Show* (SX)
- Cultural Memory and British Identity in Peter Morgan's *The Crown* (BA)
- Devolution and National Identities within the UK EU Membership Referendum Campaigns 2016 (BA)
- Education Politics, Social Class and the Conservative Party in England. A Comparison of Ideology and Education Policy under Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron (SX)
- Gender in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and its Adaptations
- Gender Representations in Modern Fairy-tale Adaptations (BA)
- Gender Roles in Contemporary Representations of the Victorian Age on Television: *Ripper Street* and *Sherlock* (SX)
- *Heartstopper* – Identity Politics and Industrial Practice: Queer Representations on Screen in the Age of Convergence Culture (BA)
- Humour and Northern Irish Identities in *Derry Girls* (SX)

- Identity Constructions in the Welsh Independence Movement: Analysing the YesCymru Narrative on Twitter (MA)
- Irish Travellers – Culture, Conflicts and Education of an Ethnic Minority (SX)
- Jewish Identities in Contemporary Britain between Defence and Defiance (BA)
- Justifying Iraq Policies: Political Speeches in Comparison (BA)
- Language Planning, Language Policy, and Identity in Wales. The Role of Welsh in Plaid Cymru’s Welsh Assembly Election Manifestos (BA)
- Long Live the Queen: Conflicting Memories of Queen Elizabeth II in the News Media (MA)
- Memory Culture and Places of Memory – A Comparison of Coventry Cathedral and the Dresdner Frauenkirche (BA)
- National Identities in Scottish Professional Football (MA)
- National Identities in the EU Referendum Debate in Wales (MA)
- Oscar Wilde in Film: The Progression of the Heritage Film and Its Collective Queer Identity (BA)
- Political Satire in Fanfiction about the Liberal Democrat-Conservative Coalition (MA)
- Psychogeography: Exploring Jack the Ripper's East End on Screen (SX)
- Re-Orientalism in Riad Sattouf's Graphic Memoir *The Arab of the Future*
- Representation of Cultural Identities in Contemporary Sherlock Holmes Adaptations (BA)
- Representation of Welshness in Contemporary British Media (BA)
- Representations of British South Asian Minorities in the 21st Century. Othering in *Bend it Like Beckham* (2002) and *The Long Goodbye* (2020) (BA)
- Representations of Germany in British Daily Newspapers (BA)
- Scottish Icons in the Marketing Campaign “Spirit of Scotland” (SX)
- Scottish Identity in Contemporary Media (SX)
- Scottish Independence and Europe: The Transformation of the Scottish EU Debate (SX)
- Scottish National Identity in Election Manifestos (BA)
- Scottish Nationalism in the Second Half of the C20 (SX)
- Scottishness in Music. Cultural Identities of Contemporary Scottish Pop Bands (MA)
- Stereotyped Portrayals of Females in Contemporary TEFL Textbooks for German *Oberschule* (SX)
- Surveillance in Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Eggers’ *The Circle*
- Tabloiding the War. The Falklands/Malvinas Campaign and its Representation on the Front Pages of Argentine and British Yellow Press Papers (MA)
- The Anglican Church and How It Builds Identity - A Case Study of Leipzig English Church (BA)
- The Construction of a Cultural Heritage Narrative in *Outlander* (BA)
- The Construction of National Identity in Scottish Secondary Schools (SX)
- The Depiction of Charles Edward Stuart in Scottish Ballads of the 18th Century (BA)
- The Depiction of Mary, Queen of Scots, in Popular Culture (BA)
- The English Female Football Fan: Identity and Media Representation in Contemporary Britain (SX)
- The Female Body in British Folk Horror Cinema (BA)
- The Humanism and Posthumanism of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (BA)
- The Jacobite Risings and Scottish National Identity (BA)
- The Media Representation of Britain and Iran in the Newspaper Coverage of the Nuclear Deal (MA)

- The Myth of Winston Churchill in the Media (BA)
- The New Scottish Cinema and the Role of *Trainspotting* and *T2 Trainspotting* (BA)
- The Northern Irish Conflict on Film in the 21st Century (MA)
- The Representation of Queen Victoria in the Media of the 19th Century (BA)
- The Representation of the Special Relationship since the 1990s in 21st-century Films (BA)
- The Role of National Identity in the English Eurosceptic Discourse of the British Press (BA)
- The Role of Women during the Abolition of Slavery (BA)
- The Superhero/Villain Trope in the Amazon Original Series *The Boys* (BA)
- The Ulster Scots. The Development of a Distinctive Community (SX)
- Thomas Davis - Perspectives of an Irish Nationalist (BA)
- Tourism and National Identity: An Analysis of *Homecoming Scotland 2014* (MA)
- Urban and Rural Ireland in *Normal People* by Sally Rooney (BA)
- Youth and Childhood in Scottish Film since the 1980s (SX)
- Youth in *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman (BA)