

In Pursuit of Prejudice? Mutual Perceptions of Identity

Course Code: SMLM 039

Prejudice, stereotypes, and clichés often inform the representation of the Other in the media, public and private discourse. This module seeks to identify and assess the impact of such stereotypes on Anglo-German relations. It discusses the meaning of prejudice as “Vorverständnis” in Nietzsche’s and Gadamer’s terms and analyses the specificity of Anglo-German stereotypes and stereotyping. It proposes to examine prejudice and stereotypes as denominators of “Kulturanalyse” and discusses the interconnection between prejudice and identity formation. It also considers ways of making prejudice productive and of limiting its negative effects.

- Week 1: Introduction: The Many Faces of Prejudice (AN)
- Week 2: Kant and Gadamer : The Enlightenment’s ‘Prejudice against Prejudice’ (AN)
- Week 3: Prejudice as a Precondition for Hermeneutical Understanding (AN)
- Week 4: Beyond Reason and Phantasy: Heine’s Cultivation of Prejudice (RG)
- Week 5: Jane Austen and George Eliot on Prejudice (RG)
- Week 6: Nietzsche on Prejudice in *Jenseits von Gut und Böse* (RG)
- Week 7: Reading Week
- Week 8: Who is Afraid of Whom: Freud on Prejudice and Anxieties (AN)
- Week 9: How Friends and Brothers Become Enemies and Monsters: the Rhetoric of the “Great War” (AN)
- Week 10: Prejudice and Contested Identities in the Aftermath of National Socialism and WWII (AN)
- Week 11: “Krautbashing” and Bemused Anglophilia: Prejudice Between Reunification and the World Cup (AN)
- Week 12: Conclusions: The Roles of Prejudice in Anglo-German Cultural Relations

Course Reading List

- Bridgham, Fred, ed. *The First World War as a Clash of Cultures*. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2006.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Zur Psychopathologie des Alltagslebens*. In: *Gesammelte Werke*, Bd. 4. London: Imago, 1941.
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg: *Wahrheit und Methode*. 1960. Tübingen: Mohr, 1990.
- Görner, Rüdiger. “Nutzen und Nachteil des Vorurteils.” In: *Mauer, Schatten, Gerüst. Kulturkritische Versuche*. Tübingen: Klöpfer & Meyer, 1999, pp. 138-147.
- Görner, Rüdiger. *Anglo-German Affinities and Antipathies*. Munich: Iudicium 2004.
- Grondin, Jean. “Gadamer’s Basic Understanding of Understanding.” In: *The Cambridge Companion to Gadamer*. Ed. Robert J. Dostal. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 36-51.
- Kant, Immanuel. “Beantwortung der Frage: Was ist Aufklärung?” In: *Werke in sechs Bänden*. Ed. Wilhelm Weischedel. Bd. 6. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1998, pp. 51-61.
- Mommsen, Wolfgang J. *Die ungleichen Partner. Deutsch-britische Beziehungen im 19. Und 20. Jahrhundert*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlagsanstalt 1999.

- Nicholls, Anthony J.: *Fifty Years of Anglo-German Relations*. Bithell Memorial Lecture, 2000. London: Institute of Germanic Studies, University of London, 2001.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich: *Jenseits von Gut und Böse*. Stuttgart: Reclam, 1988.
- Ramsden, John: *Don't Mention the War. The British and the Germans since 1890*. London: Little, Brown, 2006.
- Ritter, Gerhard A. and Peter Wende, eds. *Rivalität und Partnerschaft. Studien zu deutsch-britischen Beziehungen im 19. Und 20. Jahrhundert*. Paderborn: Veröffentlichungen des Deutschen Historischen Instituts London 1999.
- Wolheim, Richard. "Dreams, Errors, Symptoms and Jokes." In: *Freud*. London: Fontana, 1991, pp. 65-106.

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