

**Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher**

**S**                      **University, Industry, Memory and**                      **Thu (3)**      **W 48/001**  
**the Question of Englishness in**  
**Contemporary British Fiction**

David Lodge's novel *Nice Work* has repeatedly been hailed as one of the funniest campus novels ever, not only giving insight into how universities (and their professors, assistant teachers and students) work (or don't work) but also explaining major literary and theoretical concepts to the reader. So what easier way is there to learn or to refresh the basics of literary and cultural studies than with the help of an intelligent and hilarious novel?

Hotly debated concepts such as 'realism', the 19th century industrial novel and its relevance for the 20th and 21st centuries as well as the question of how to make British industry more competitive are not only cleverly presented by Lodge but also explained and answered in an entertaining way.

Certainly no less funny than *Nice Work* is Julian Barnes' big success *England, England*. Here, we are confronted with a satire on Englishness and Britishness which also discusses cultural studies and media studies topics including the notion of memory. What, to give just a few examples, are the main characteristics of Englishness? How can we sell Englishness to the world? What is the difference between an original and a copy or between everyday life and virtual reality? And what is the difference between a nation and an enterprise, if there is one?

Please buy:

Julian Barnes. *England, England*. [1998] London: Vintage, 2008. [ISBN 978-0099526544]

David Lodge. *Nice Work*. [1988] London: Vintage, 2011. [ISBN 978-0099554189]

**This course prepares students for the "Schriftliches Staatsexamen: Klausur Englische Literaturwissenschaft" in Autumn/Winter 2016.**

You do not have to register beforehand – just be there for the first meeting.