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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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18. Oktober 2021

### **New Visiting Professor for Irish Studies**

**Lance Pettitt, Associate Research Fellow and Lecturer in the Department of Film, Media & Cultural Studies at Birkbeck University of London, is Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies at the University of Wuppertal since October. Thanks to the initiative of the Wuppertal Anglicist Prof. Dr. Katharina Rennhak and financed by the Emigrant Support Program (ESP) of the Abroad Unit of the Irish Government, Prof. Pettitt will teach and research in the field of Irish Studies during this winter semester.**

"We are very happy to welcome Prof. Pettitt, a proven expert in the field of Irish Studies, as a guest at our faculty. His public lectures at the BUW and at the other German universities involved in the project 'The Traveling Visiting Professor in Irish Studies' (the universities of the Saarland, Tübingen and Würzburg) will have an important networking effect for Irish Studies in Germany", says Prof. Rennhak. His lectures will focus on current developments in Irish film studies and, in particular, the media representation of the Irish border, including Eugene McCabe's Victims trilogy television films. Together with the Wuppertal professors Dr. Sandra Heinen and Dr. Katharina Rennhak, he will host an international and interdisciplinary symposium on the subject of "Irish Border Narratives" at the Center for Narrative Research in June 2022.

Professor Pettitt studied English and American literature at the University of Kent, England, and received his PhD from University College Dublin. He then taught cultural and literary studies as well as Irish studies at various universities in England. He was visiting professor at universities in Barcelona, Sao Paulo and Vienna.

From 2011 to 2016 Pettitt was Head of the School of Arts and Humanities and Director of the Center for Irish Studies at St. Mary's University in Twickenham. He is currently researching and teaching at Birkbeck University of London.

He is the author of three monographs and numerous articles, including *Screening Ireland* (2000) and *The Last Bohemian: Brian Desmond Hurst, Irish Film, British Cinema* (2022). He is co-editor of the „Ireland on Film“ series (since 2011) which publishes critical bilingual editions of Irish screenplays. In addition to his research and teaching activities, Lance Pettitt was Chair of the Irish Film Festival London (2018-2020).

The visiting professorship for Irish Studies is a joint initiative of the Irish government, the Irish Embassy in Berlin and the University of Wuppertal.

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Picture: Friederike von Heyden