

PRESS RELEASE

NEW JOURNALISM-RESIDENCY PROGRAMME INVITES EMERGING EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS TO EXAMINE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON UK SOCIETY



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***(Re)-Collecting Europe* is a new residency programme devised by the Goethe-Institut London, which will give two journalists the opportunity to travel through the UK for four weeks. The Goethe-Institut London is delighted to announce Italian journalist Francesca De Benedetti and German journalist Christian Werthschulte as this year's journalists-in-residence.**

12 March 2019

The residency will take place from 15 March to 14 April 2019. Against the backdrop of the UK's departure from the EU, De Benedetti and Werthschulte will examine the social and cultural impact of Brexit on the civil society in the UK. At the beginning, the two journalists will stay at the Goethe-Institut London for a week, before embarking on their journey through the UK. Their research and findings will be published in different publications including the [website](#) of the Goethe-Institut London.

During her residency, Francesca De Benedetti is especially interested in investigating the possible consequences of Brexit for young UK citizens. While most young British millennials voted in favour of the EU, they are also likely to be notably affected by Brexit. The 35-year old journalist wonders how Brexit might affect their lives and what young people's fears and hopes for the future are. Will their pro-European opinion outlast Brexit? De Benedetti currently works for Italian print and digital newspaper *La Repubblica*, where she has been a staff reporter for the foreign desk covering European policies, international trade and technology. Recently, she also wrote about the Italian elections and politics for British newspaper *The Independent*.

Christian Werthschulte will return to Rochdale to research why his former adoptive home town voted "Leave" in the 2016 referendum. Fifteen years ago, he worked at a comprehensive school in the small town near Manchester. Back then, Rochdale seemed to him like a good place to be – "a multicultural community that had to face the economic consequences of deindustrialisation, but otherwise seemed surprisingly intact". Since then, many things have changed. During his residency, Werthschulte would like to focus his research on nearby regions to find out which kind of future the residents imagined for themselves in 2016. What ideas of being English have influenced their vote? How do they imagine their future now on the eve of Brexit? The 41-year-old journalist works for print media and radio such as Cologne magazine *Stadtrevue* and culture radio station *WDR Cosmo* and has an academic background in the field of British cultural studies.

(Re)-Collecting Europe is a new residency programme devised by the Goethe-Institut London, which is aimed at fresh and emerging journalistic voices encouraging critical thinking and creative debate. The residency programme will run from 2019 until 2021.

Background

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. With its worldwide residency programmes the Goethe-Institut offers artists and creatives the opportunity to live and work in another country and context for a set period of time. Freed from financial pressures, creatives can thereby develop new ideas, projects and relationships. *(Re)-Collecting Europe* is part of the Goethe-Institut London's wide range of [residency programmes](#).

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