

# British Cultural Identities

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Studying British Cultures - Susan Bassnett 2021-04-30

Studying British Cultures is a lively and provocative volume of essays which offers the ideal introduction to a contentious area. The contributors, who have been instrumental in establishing the discipline of British Cultural Studies, explore a wide range of critical debates on cultural identity and explode the myth that Britain is made up of a homogenous people. The first half of the book traces examines the theory and methodology of studying British cultures, in disciplines variously known as British Studies, Cultural Studies or British Cultural Studies. The second half of the book turns to key topics in those fields, looking in turn at developments in Scottish, Welsh and Irish Studies and the roles of Shakespeare and West Indian literature in the study of British cultures. In vivid and often

entertaining essays, the authors demonstrate that 'culture' is a plurality of discourses, not a fixed, unitary concept.

*Milton Keynes in British Culture* - Lauren Pikó 2019-02-07

The new town of Milton Keynes was designated in 1967 with a bold, flexible social vision to impose "no fixed conception of how people ought to live." Despite this progressive social vision, and its low density, flexible, green urban design, the town has been consistently represented in British media, political rhetoric and popular culture negatively. as a fundamentally sterile, paternalistic, concrete imposition on the landscape, as a "joke", and even as "Los Angeles in Buckinghamshire". How did these meanings develop at such odds from residents' and planners' experiences? Why have these meanings proved so resilient? *Milton Keynes in British Culture*

traces the representations of Milton Keynes in British national media, political rhetoric and popular culture in detail from 1967 to 1992, demonstrating how the town's founding principles came to be understood as symbolic of the worst excesses of a postwar state planning system which was falling from favour. Combining approaches from urban planning history, cultural history and cultural studies, political economy and heritage studies, the book maps the ways in which Milton Keynes' newness formed an existential challenge to ideals of English landscapes as receptacles of tradition and closed, fixed national identities. Far from being a marginal, "foreign" and atypical town, the book demonstrates how the changing political fortunes of state urban planned spaces were a key site of conflict around ideas of how the British state should function, how its landscapes should look, and who they should be for.

#### The British World - Carl Bridge 2003

This collection of essays is based upon the assumption that the British Empire was held together not merely by ties of trade and defence, but by a shared sense of British identity that linked British communities around the globe. Focusing on the themes of migration, identity and the media, this book is an exploration of these and other interconnected themes that help define the British World of the late 19th and 20th centuries.

#### **Myth and National Identity in Nineteenth-Century Britain** - Stephanie

#### Barczewski 2000-03-02

Scholars have become increasingly interested in how modern national consciousness comes into being through fictional narratives. Literature is of particular importance to this process, for it is responsible for tracing the nation's evolution through glorious tales of its history. In nineteenth-century Britain, the legends of King Arthur and Robin Hood played an important role in construction of contemporary national identity. These two legends provide excellent windows through which to view British culture, because they provide very different perspectives. King Arthur and Robin Hood have traditionally been diametrically opposed in terms of their ideological orientation. The former is a king, a man at the pinnacle of the social and political hierarchy, whereas the latter is an outlaw, and is therefore completely outside conventional hierarchical structures. The fact that two such different figures could simultaneously function as British national heroes suggests that nineteenth-century British nationalism did not represent a single set of values and ideas, but rather that it was forced to assimilate a variety of competing points of view.

#### *Across the margins* - Glenda Norquay 2018-07-30

This electronic version has been made available under a Creative Commons (BY-NC-ND) open access license. The concept of 'margins' denotes geographical, economic, demographic, cultural and political

positioning in relation to a perceived centre. This book aims to question the term 'marginal' itself, to hear the voices talking 'across' borders and not only to or through an English centre. The first part of the book examines debates on the political and poetic choice of language, drawing attention to significant differences between the Irish and Scottish strategies. It includes a discussion of the complicated dynamic of woman and nation by Aileen Christianson, which explores the work of twentieth-century Scottish and Irish women writers. The book also explores masculinities in both English and Scottish writing from Berthold Schoene, which deploys sexual difference as a means of testing postcolonial theorizing. A different perspective on the notion of marginality is offered by addressing 'Englishness' in relation to 'migrant' writing in prose concerned with India and England after Independence. The second part of the book focuses on a wide range of new poetry to question simplified margin/centre relations. It discusses a historicising perspective on the work of cultural studies and its responses to the relationship between ethnicity and second-generation Irish musicians from Sean Campbell. The comparison of contemporary Irish and Scottish fiction which identifies similarities and differences in recent developments is also considered. In each instance the writers take on the task of examining and assessing points of connection and diversity across a particular body of work, while moving away from contrasts which

focus on an English 'norm'.

#### **Cultural Diversity in the British Middle Ages - J. Cohen 2008-08-04**

Through close readings of both familiar and obscure medieval texts, the contributors to this volume attempt to read England as a singularly powerful entity within a vast geopolitical network. This capacious world can be glimpsed in the cultural flows connecting the Normans of Sicily with the rulers of England, or Chaucer with legends arriving from Bohemia. It can also be seen in surprising places in literature, as when green children are discovered in twelfth-century Yorkshire or when Welsh animals begin to speak of the long history of their land's colonization. The contributors to this volume seek moments of cultural admixture and heterogeneity within texts that have often been assumed to belong to a single, national canon, discovering moments when familiar and bounded space erupt into unexpected diversity and infinite realms.

#### **Class and Contemporary British Culture - A. Biressi 2013-04-23**

How does culture articulate, frame, organise and produce stories about social class and class difference? What do these stories tell us about contemporary models of success, failure, struggle and aspiration? How have class-based labels been revived or newly-minted to categorise the insiders and outsiders of the new 'age of austerity'? Drawing on examples from the 1980s to the present day this book investigates the changing

landscape of class and reveals how it has become populated by a host of classed figures including Essex Man and Essex Girl, the 'squeezed middle', the 'sharp-elbowed middle class', the 'feral underclass', the 'white working class', the 'undeserving poor', 'selfish baby boomers' and others. Overall, the book argues that social class, although complicated and highly contested, remains a valid and fruitful route into understanding how contemporary British culture articulates social distinction and social difference and the significant costs and investments at stake for all involved.

*Cultural identities and the aesthetics of Britishness* - Dana Arnold

2017-03-01

Considers how notions of Britishness were constructed and promoted through architecture, landscape, painting, sculpture and literature. Maps important moments in the self-conscious evolution of the idea of 'nation' against a broad cultural historical framework. An important addition to the field of postcolonial studies as it looks at how British identity creation affected those living in England – most study in this area has thus far focused on the effect of such identity creation upon the colonial subject. Broad appeal due to wide subject matter covered. Examines just how 'constructed' a national identity is – past and present.

**Studying British Cultures** - Susan Bassnett 2014-02-25

'British Studies' and 'British Cultural Studies' cover a wide range of facets of contemporary Britain. *Studying British Cultures: An Introduction* is a unique collection of essays which examine the most significant aspects of this quickly developing area of study, analyzing the ways of teaching and reading British culture. The work covers the contemporary and key issues, including: the terminological distinction between 'British Studies' and 'British Cultural Studies' the problem of national cultures and identities in contemporary Britain studying language and literature from a British Studies perspective models for studying the historical context of the development of ideas of 'Britishness' studying contemporary Britain overseas The contributors are some of the key names in current debates surrounding British Studies, and Susan Bassnett holds together their work with a substantial and accessible introduction. *Studying British Cultures: An Introduction* will be essential reading for students and teachers concerned with the study of contemporary Britain.

*British Cultural Identities* - Mike Storry 2022-08

The sixth edition of *British Cultural Identities* assesses the degree to which being British impinges on the identity of the many people who belong to contemporary Britain. Twenty-first-century British identity is analysed through the various and changing ways in which people who live in the UK position themselves and are positioned by their culture. Using examples

from contemporary and popular culture, each chapter covers one of eight intersecting themes including places and peoples, education, work and leisure, gender, sex and the family, youth culture and style, class and politics, ethnicity and language, religion, and heritage. This new edition is fully updated to include the latest information on Britain in the 2020s. It explains the influences that shape British identities and outlines the important current debates stemming from cultural, social, and political change. Considering contemporary touchstones and recent national statistics, the contributors place modern British life in the context of the activities, events, and society found in the UK across recent decades. The book is the perfect introductory text for students of contemporary British society, containing photographs, tables, timelines, discussion questions, cultural examples and suggestions for further resources at the end of each chapter.

**British Cultural Studies** - Graeme Turner 2005-08-18

is a comprehensive introduction to the British tradition of cultural studies. Turner offers an accessible overview of the central themes that have informed British cultural studies: language, semiotics, Marxism and ideology, individualism, subjectivity and discourse. Beginning with a history of cultural studies, Turner discusses the work of such pioneers as Raymond Williams, Richard Hoggart, E. P. Thompson, Stuart Hall and the

Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies. He then explores the central theorists and categories of British cultural studies: texts and contexts; audience; everyday life; ideology; politics, gender and race. The third edition of this successful text has been fully revised and updated to include:

- \* How to apply the principles of cultural studies and how to read a text
- \* An overview of recent ethnographic studies
- \* Discussion of anthropological theories of consumption
- \* Questions of identity and new ethnicities
- \* How to do cultural studies, and an evaluation of recent research methodologies
- \* A fully updated and comprehensive bibliography

**Roots & Culture** - Eddie Chambers 2016-12-18

How did a distinct and powerful Black British identity emerge? In the 1950s, when many Caribbean migrants came to Britain, there was no such recognised entity as “Black Britain.” Yet by the 1980s, the cultural landscape had radically changed, and a remarkable array of creative practices such as theatre, poetry, literature, South Sudan in War and Peace music and the visual arts gave voice to striking new articulations of Black-British identity.

**Questions of Cultural Identity** - Stuart Hall 1996-04-04

Why and how do contemporary questions of culture so readily become highly charged questions of identity? The question of cultural identity lies at the heart of current debates in cultural studies and social theory. At

issue is whether those identities which defined the social and cultural world of modern societies for so long - distinctive identities of gender, sexuality, race, class and nationality - are in decline, giving rise to new forms of identification and fragmenting the modern individual as a unified subject. *Questions of Cultural Identity* offers a wide-ranging exploration of this issue. Stuart Hall firstly outlines the reasons why the question of identity is so compelling and yet so problematic. The cast of outstanding contributors then interrogate different dimensions of the crisis of identity; in so doing, they provide both theoretical and substantive insights into different approaches to understanding identity.

*The Making of English National Identity* - Krishan Kumar 2003-03-13

Why is English national identity so enigmatic and so elusive? Why, unlike the Scots, Welsh, Irish and most of continental Europe, do the English find it so difficult to say who they are? *The Making of English National Identity*, first published in 2003, is a fascinating exploration of Englishness and what it means to be English. Drawing on historical, sociological and literary theory, Krishan Kumar examines the rise of English nationalism and issues of race and ethnicity from earliest times to the present day. He argues that the long history of the English as an imperial people has, as with other imperial people like the Russians and the Austrians, developed a sense of missionary nationalism which in the interests of unity and empire has

necessitated the repression of ordinary expressions of nationalism.

Professor Kumar's lively and provocative approach challenges readers to reconsider their pre-conceptions about national identity and who the English really are.

*English Journeys* -

**British Cultural Identities** - Mike Storry 2002

The second edition of this successful book analyses contemporary British identity from the various and changing ways. Right up to date, it covers such phenomena as Posh and Becks, Big Brother, the Millenium Dome and Harry Potter.

*Cultural Identity Between Anchorage and Embeddedness* - Mihaela Irimia 2003

Governing England - Michael Kenny 2018

*Governing England* examines the state of England's governance, identity and relationship with the other nations of the UK. It brings together academic experts on constitutional change, territorial politics, nationalism, political parties, public opinion, and local government both to explain the current place of England within a changing United Kingdom, and to consider how the "English constitution" is likely to develop over the coming

years. At a time when questions of territory and identity have grown increasingly politicised, *Governing England* offers a deeper academic analysis of how England and Englishness are changing. The central questions it addresses are whether, why, and with what consequences there has been a disentangling of England from Britain within the institutions of the UK state, and of Englishness from Britishness at the level of culture and national identity. This volume includes competing interpretations of what has changed in terms of English nationhood.

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anthropological theories of consumption \* Questions of identity and new ethnicities \* How to do cultural studies, and an evaluation of recent research methodologies \* A fully updated and comprehensive bibliography  
**The Idea of Englishness** - Krishan Kumar 2016-02-24

Ideas of Englishness, and of the English nation, have become a matter of renewed interest in recent years as a result of threats to the integrity of the United Kingdom and the perceived rise of that unusual thing, English nationalism. Interrogating the idea of an English nation, and of how that might compare with other concepts of nationhood, this book enquires into the origins of English national identity, partly by questioning the assumption of its long-standing existence. It investigates the role of the British empire - the largest empire in world history - in the creation of English and British identities, and the results of its disappearance. Considering the 'myths of the English' - the ideas and images that the English and others have constructed about their history and their sense of themselves as a people - the distinctiveness of English social thought (in comparison with that of other nations), the relationship between English and British identity and the relationship of Englishness to Europe, this wide-ranging, comparative and historical approach to understanding the particular nature of Englishness and English national identity, will appeal to scholars of sociology, cultural studies and history with interests in English

and British national identity and debates about England's future place in the United Kingdom.

**Visions of British Culture from the Reformation to Romanticism** - Celestina Savonius-Wroth 2021-11-08

This book is a major new contribution to the study of cultural identities in Britain and Ireland from the Reformation to Romanticism. It provides a fresh perspective on the rise of interest in British vernacular (or "folk") cultures, which has often been elided with the emergence of British Romanticism and its Continental precursors. Here the Romantics' discovery of and admiration for vernacular traditions is placed in a longer historical timeline reaching back to the controversies sparked by the Protestant Reformation. The book charts the emergence of a nuanced discourse about vernacular cultures, developing in response to the Reformers' devastating attack on customary practices and beliefs relating to the natural world, seasonal festivities, and rites of passage. It became a discourse grounded in humanist Biblical and antiquarian scholarship; informed by the theological and pastoral problems of the long period of religious instability after the Reformation; and, over the course of the eighteenth century, colored by new ideas about culture drawn from Enlightenment historicism and empiricism. This study shows that Romantic literary primitivism and Romantic social thought, both radical and

conservative, grew out of this rich context. It will be welcomed by historians of early modern and eighteenth-century Britain and those interested in the study of religious and vernacular cultures.

[The Foreignness of Foreigners](#) - Vanessa Alayrac-Fielding 2015-06-18

This collection of essays examines the various encounters between Britain and the Other, from a cultural, racial, ethnic, artistic and social perspective. It investigates the constructions of various figures of the foreigner in the British Isles through representations and discourses in the political and literary fields, as well as in the visual arts from the 17th century to the contemporary period. This volume presents a diverse selection of contributions which offer some common concerns abo ...

[British Cultural Identities](#) - Mike Storry 2003-09-06

A clear introduction to British culture and 'identity', giving readers an insider's view on the way British people perceive themselves, and are positioned by their culture. Tables, photo- graphs and exercises make this an ideal text.

**Mobilizing Cultural Identities in the First World War** - Federica G. Pedriali 2020-08-19

This book tackles cultural mobilization in the First World War as a plural process of identity formation and de-formation. It explores eight different settings in which individuals, communities and conceptual paradigms were



mobilized. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, it interrogates one of the most challenging facets of the history of the Great War, one that keeps raising key questions on the way cultures respond to times of crisis.

Mobilization during the First World War was a major process of material and imaginative engagement unfolding on a military, economic, political and cultural level, and existing identities were dramatically challenged and questioned by the whirl of discourses and representations involved.

*Contesting British Chinese Culture* - Ashley Thorpe 2018-09-18

This is the first text to address British Chinese culture. It explores British Chinese cultural politics in terms of national and international debates on the Chinese diaspora, race, multiculturalism, identity and belonging, and transnational 'Chineseness'. Collectively, the essays look at how notions of 'British Chinese culture' have been constructed and challenged in the visual arts, theatre and performance, and film, since the mid-1980s. They contest British Chinese invisibility, showing how practice is not only heterogeneous, but is forged through shifting historical and political contexts; continued racialization, the currency of Orientalist stereotypes and the possibility of their subversion; the policies of institutions and their funding strategies; and dynamic relationships with transnationalisms. The book brings a fresh perspective that makes both an empirical and theoretical contribution to the study of race and cultural production, whilst

critically interrogating the very notion of British Chineseness.

*Cultural Identity in British Musical Theatre, 1890–1939* - Ben Macpherson  
2018-05-15

This book examines the performance of 'Britishness' on the musical stage. Covering a tumultuous period in British history, it offers a fresh look at the vitality and centrality of the musical stage, as a global phenomenon in late-Victorian popular culture and beyond. Through a re-examination of over fifty archival play-scripts, the book comprises seven interconnected stories told in two parts. Part One focuses on domestic and personal identities of 'Britishness', and how implicit anxieties and contradictions of nationhood, class and gender were staged as part of the popular cultural condition. Broadening in scope, Part Two offers a revisionary reading of Empire and Otherness on the musical stage, and concludes with a consideration of the Great War and the interwar period, as musical theatre performed a nostalgia for a particular kind of 'Britishness', reflecting the anxieties of a nation in decline.

*British Cultural Identities* - Mike Storry 1997

A clear introduction to British culture and 'identity', giving readers an insider's view on the way British people perceive themselves, and are positioned by their culture. Tables, photographs and exercises make this an ideal text.

**Symbolising Boundaries** - Anthony Paul Cohen 1986

**Making a Social Body** - Mary Poovey 1995-11-15

With much recent work in Victorian studies focused on gender and class differences, the homogenizing features of 19th-century culture have received relatively little attention. In *Making a Social Body*, Mary Poovey examines one of the conditions that made the development of a mass culture in Victorian Britain possible: the representation of the population as an aggregate—a social body. Drawing on both literature and social reform texts, she analyzes the organization of knowledge during this period and explores its role in the emergence of the idea of the social body. Poovey illuminates the ways literary genres, such as the novel, and innovations in social thought, such as statistical thinking and anatomical realism, helped separate social concerns from the political and economic domains. She then discusses the influence of the social body concept on Victorian ideas about the role of the state, examining writings by James Phillips Kay, Thomas Chalmers, and Edwin Chadwick on regulating the poor. Analyzing the conflict between Kay's idea of the social body and Babbage's image of the social machine, she considers the implications of both models for the place of Victorian women. Poovey's provocative readings of Disraeli's *Coningsby*, Gaskell's *Mary Barton*, and Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend* show

that the novel as a genre exposed the role gender played in contemporary discussions of poverty and wealth. *Making a Social Body* argues that gender, race, and class should be considered in the context of broader concerns such as how social authority is distributed, how institutions formalize knowledge, and how truth is defined.

**Identities and Social Change in Britain since 1940** - Mike Savage  
2010-05-13

*Identities and Social Change in Britain since 1940* examines how, between 1940 and 1970 British society was marked by the imprint of the academic social sciences in profound ways which have an enduring legacy on how we see ourselves. It focuses on how interview methods and sample surveys eclipsed literature and the community study as a means of understanding ordinary life. The book shows that these methods were part of a wider remaking of British national identity in the aftermath of decolonisation in which measures of the rational, managed nation eclipsed literary and romantic ones. It also links the emergence of social science methods to the strengthening of technocratic and scientific identities amongst the educated middle classes, and to the rise in masculine authority which challenged feminine expertise. This book is the first to draw extensively on archived qualitative social science data from the 1930s to the 1960s, which it uses to offer a unique, personal and

challenging account of post war social change in Britain. It also uses this data to conduct a new kind of historical sociology of the social sciences, one that emphasises the discontinuities in knowledge forms and which stresses how disciplines and institutions competed with each other for reputation. Its emphasis on how social scientific forms of knowing eclipsed those from the arts and humanities during this period offers a radical re-thinking of the role of expertise today which will provoke social scientists, scholars in the humanities, and the general reader alike.

**How identity is reflected in British working class films - Maxi Kirchner**

2006-04-04

Seminar paper from the year 2003 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1,3, Dresden Technical University (Anglistik), 9 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: This thesis compares several working class films such as "Brassed Off" and "Billy Elliot" with reference to the theoretical concept of national identity, ie. the British national identity. The analysis of such a diverse cultural term like "identity" and its treatment in British working class related films will be the topic of this research paper. After having defined the term on its several levels, I want to show how identity is treated differently in, firstly, a popular film called "Brassed Off" and, secondly, an independent film produced by Amber Films called "Like Father". Both films

are set in the 1990s and deal with the problem of pit closure and unemployment of miners. Both films deal with the consequences of unemployment and poverty of the working class than with work per se. Concerning class consciousness, both films show people who wish to escape the constrictions of their class. Since identity is not only a question of class, gender roles are considered in both films as well. The motif of identity is shown very differently in these films. This thesis analyzes how these films represent the construction, the maintenance and the loss of identity.

Black British Cultural Studies - Houston A. Baker, Jr. 1996-09

Black British Cultural Studies has attracted significant attention recently in the American academy both as a model for cultural studies generally and as a corrective to reigning constructions of Blackness within African-American studies. This anthology offers the first book-length selection of writings by key figures in this field. From Stuart Hall's classic study of racially structured societies to an interview by Manthia Diawara with Sonia Boyce, a leading figure in the Black British arts movement, the papers included here have transformed cultural studies through their sustained focus on the issue of race. Much of the book centers on Black British arts, especially film, ranging from a historical overview of Black British cinema to a weighing of the costly burden on Black artists of representing their

communities. Other essays consider such topics as race and representation and colonial and postcolonial discourse. This anthology will be an invaluable and timely resource for everyone interested in cultural studies. It also has much to offer students of anthropology, sociology, media and film studies, and literary criticism.

**Cultural Marxism in Postwar Britain** - Dennis L. Dworkin 1997

A history of British cultural Marxism. This book traces its development from beginnings in postwar Britain, through transformations in the 1960s and 1970s, to the emergence of British cultural studies at Birmingham, up to the advent of Thatcherism, to reflect a tradition, that represents an effort to resolve the crisis of the postwar British Left.

*England's Discontents* - Mike Wayne 2018

How England's political cultures are being eroded by neoliberalism

*British Cultural Studies* - David Morley 2001

British Cultural Studies includes over thirty essays written by expert contributors, covering almost every aspect of culture and identity in Britain today and addressing the current transformations of British culture and identity in the context of globalization. The opening section of the book deals with different conceptions of Britishness and identity, including English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Asian and Black British identities. Section Two then analyses the interplay between tradition and heritage in

contemporary culture, whilst the final section looks at the world of lifestyle groups, subcultures, and cultural politics and the way in which they have come in many ways to substitute for notions of Britishness.

**Contesting Culture** - Gerd Baumann 1996-04-26

A vivid 1996 ethnographic account of an aspect of contemporary British life, and a challenge to the conventional discourse of community studies.

**War and the Cultural Construction of Identities in Britain** - Barbara Korte 2002

The British have been involved in numerous wars since the Middle Ages. Many, if not all, of these wars have been re-constructed in historical accounts, in the media and in the arts, and have thus kept the nation's cultural memory of its wars alive. Wars have influenced the cultural construction and reconstruction not only of national identities in Britain; personal, communal, gender and ethnic identities have also been established, shaped, reinterpreted and questioned in times of war and through its representations. Coming from Literary, Film and Cultural Studies, History and Art History, the contributions in this multidisciplinary volume explore how different cultural communities in the British Isles have envisaged war and its significance for various aspects of identity-formation, from the Middle Ages through to the 20th century.

*British Cultural Identities* - Mike Storry 2002

The second edition of this successful book analyses contemporary British identity from the various and changing ways. Right up to date, it covers such phenomena as Posh and Becks, Big Brother, the Millenium Dome and Harry Potter.

**Inventing and Resisting Britain** - Murray Pittock 1997

This book examines the difficulties and challenges which faced attempts to

create a British identity. Taking its perspective from the cultural, social and political margins of the British Isles, it demonstrates how fragile the supposed political consensus of the eighteenth century was. To read it is to reevaluate our understanding of the culture of England in relation to other societies of these islands.

Breaking the Rules - Janice Linda Hudson 2004