

# SPACE AND IDENTITY RESEARCH IN BERLIN

July 11, 2014 Andrew Gardner Day of Archaeology 2014, Roman Academia, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, London, UCL Institute of Archaeology



*Topoi Haus Dahlem. Photo: Bernd Wannemacher / FU.*

I am a [lecturer in Roman Archaeology](#) at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, but today I'm in the midst of a short research visit to the Topoi Excellence Cluster at Freie Universität Berlin. [Topoi](#) is a large research cluster dedicated to the study of space and knowledge in antiquity, and has a full programme of workshops and meetings which bring together researchers from many disciplines and institutions. I'm here as a Senior Fellow for a month, working with [Dr Kerstin Hofmann](#) and colleagues in the key topic group 'Identities: space and knowledge related identification'. In addition to getting on with my own research on Roman Britain, it's fantastic to have the opportunity to discuss various issues in the archaeology of identity with scholars based here. While there are many points of contact, there are also of course differences in the traditions of study into past identity in the UK/US and Germany, and it's really interesting to learn more about these. So today is mainly a mix of research and discussion in the [Topoi House](#) in Dahlem, as well as keeping in touch with my postgraduate students in London. I should also say that it's quite exciting to be in Germany when the national team is doing rather well in a certain global sports tournament!