

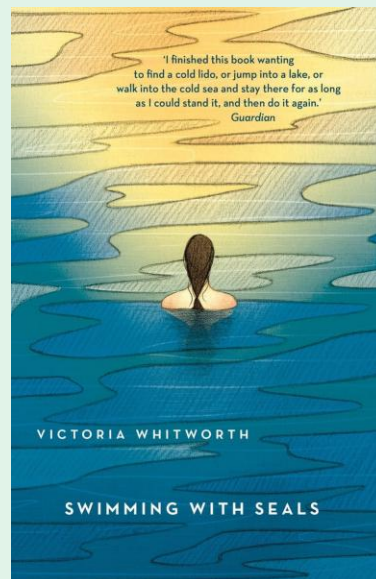
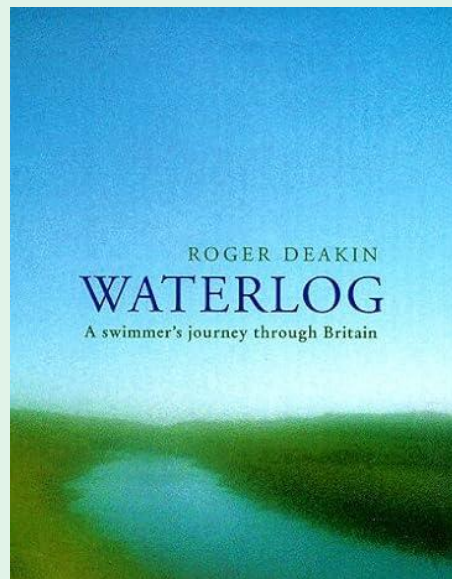
Current Issues in North American and Cultural Studies | Lecture Series of the North American Studies Program

Dr. Imke Lichterfeld

IAAK, University of Bonn

'My consciousness flowing': Outdoor Swimming and the Immediacy of Water in Roger Deakin's *Waterlog* and Victoria Whitworth's *Swimming with Seals*

Thursday | 16 January 2025 | 6:00 c.t.-8:00 pm
53111 Bonn | Rabinstraße 8 | Room 6



Roger Deakin's famous "amphibious journey" *Waterlog* (1999) supposedly increased the popularity of outdoor swimming and texts about swimming in wild waters, such as Victoria Whitworth's mythologically inspired *Swimming with Seals* (2017), have multiplied - a trend that coincides with an increasing interest in nature writing and ecocritical perspectives. In her talk, Dr. Imke Lichterfeld analyses how these two autobiographical accounts depict the physical and psychological, transient yet inspiring effects of water on human bodies. Matter-of-factly in tone, Deakin's renderings are as impressive and inspirational, Imke Lichterfeld holds, as Whitworth's historical and philosophical reflections on the sensual "obliteration of the self" in cold water.

Dr. Imke Lichterfeld is a lecturer and the Studies Coordinator at the Department of English, American and Celtic Studies at the University of Bonn. Her research focuses on early modern drama; her recent interests include the blue humanities, which inspired her course "We Write in Water" and a module on sea creatures.