Welcome

The **British International History Group** (BIHG) was established in 1987 by a group of university academics and is one of the oldest working groups within its parent organisation, the British International Studies Association (BISA).

The BIHG promotes research into international history, provides a forum for discussions in the field and highlights the relevance of an historical approach to the wider study of international relations. To help fulfil these purposes, the Group acts as a link to other relevant institutions, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and The National Archives, who each send a member along to our regular committee meetings. We also seek to defend the interests of historians of international relations at national level by, for example, making representations about the format of national research exercises and pressing for the membership of an international historian on the REF History sub-panel. To keep members informed of its activities, BIHG has an e-mailing list, an annual newsletter and a website. It holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the annual conference, but has also supported a number of ad hoc conferences on particular subjects and has regularly organised panels at the BISA annual conference. The executive committee includes the Officers of the Group and a number of ordinary members, who meet a number of times per year to plan the annual conference and other events, oversee the preparation of the newsletter and website, and discuss particular challenges. We hope that you find us a welcoming and supportive organisation that listens to what you have to say.

We look forward to seeing you at our 30th annual conference at Exeter University in August 2018.

**Patrick Finney**  
Chair of the British International History Group
The 29th Annual Conference of the British International History Group was held at Keele University from 7-9 September 2017, hosted by the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment.

Around ninety delegates attended, and more than seventy presented papers, at what was a vibrant and hugely-successful event in the attractive leafy surroundings of the Keele campus.

Yet again the conference was a truly international affair, with speakers from North America, Japan, China, South Africa, and the Middle East complementing the large number from continental Europe and the United Kingdom. It was a pleasure not only to welcome back familiar faces but also to meet the many first-time attenders, whose presence indicates that the profile and reputation of the event is continuing to grow.

The main body of the proceedings consisted of twenty-two panels dealing with the usual diverse range of periods, themes and perspectives from across the discipline. Particularly popular subjects this year included the League of Nations, intelligence, covert action and security assistance in the post-colonial Global South, and British relations with the European Economic Community and the European Union.
Postgraduate/Early Career Researcher Job Workshop

A new feature at the conference this year was a Postgraduate/Early Career Researcher Job Workshop organised by committee member George Roberts. ECRs were invited to submit sample covering letters and cvs in advance and, in a pre-dinner session on the first evening of the conference, they each received critical and constructive feedback on them from two senior scholars. This initiative was very well-received and is likely to become a staple on the programme in the future. The Group has long aimed to provide a supportive and hospitable venue for early career colleagues to present and receive feedback on their research, but this event offered further testament to our eagerness to reach out to – and to nurture - new generations of international historians.

Roundtable

The conference opened with a roundtable dealing with ‘emotions and international history’, with contributions from John Young (Nottingham) and Helen Parr (Keele), chaired by Patrick Finney. The presentations produced some thought-provoking questions from the floor and a wide-ranging discussion on the issues raised and their implications for the study of international history.

Annual General Meeting

The Group’s Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 8 September and was most notable for some personnel changes amongst the officers. After three decades of sterling service to the Group which he founded, Glyn Stone stood down as Secretary, and simultaneously John Young brought his fifteen-year tenure as Chair to a close. The new officers elected for 2017-2019 were: Patrick Finney (Chair); Rogelia Pastor-Castro (Secretary); James Ellison (Vice-Chair); and Helen Parr (Treasurer). The AGM also saw the announcement of the winner of the annual thesis prize: Mathias Haeussler emerged victorious from a very strong field with his PhD submitted at Cambridge on ‘Helmut Schmidt and Anglo-American Relations, 1974-1982’. Other issues discussed included the Group’s relationship with its parent body the British International Studies Association: members were encouraged to join BISA and also to consider contributing papers to BIHG-sponsored panels at the BISA annual conference in June 2018.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Richard Vinen

Following the AGM we were privileged to hear a stimulating, wide-ranging and witty keynote lecture delivered by Richard Vinen of King’s College London on ‘Diplomacy and the Long ’68’. 

Conference dinner at Keele Hall’
Sixty eight papers were presented in 22 panels over the three days of the conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alireza Shams Labijani</td>
<td>LSE</td>
<td>Iran's (re)entry into International Society: The Idea of the West from 1890.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximilian Drepha</td>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
<td>Making history in Afghanistan: William Kerr Fraser-Tytler as diplomat and historian.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athol Yates</td>
<td>Khalifa University</td>
<td>UK military and police assistance to the UAE from 1990s to 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy Cullen</td>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>“Maintaining and fostering friendly relations”: British military training for post-colonial Kenya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Przemyslaw Piotr Damski</td>
<td>Vistula University</td>
<td>Emotions, prejudices and the “great rapprochement” in the time of First World War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina Tamman</td>
<td>Independent scholar</td>
<td>Soviet Baltic border as silent battleground in London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Kettle</td>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>Planning the Gulf War: The view from the Foreign Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rory Cormac</td>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>Managing Imperial Decline: “Fancy Footwork” and the Failure of Covert Action in the Colonies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huw Bennett</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>Deception and psychological warfare in Britain’s Middle East strategy, 1945-1961.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Goodman</td>
<td>King’s College London</td>
<td>The role of British Intelligence and covert action in Konfrontasi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Richardson</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>Sir Percy Loraine and British relations with Italy, 1939-1940.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Mace</td>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>The Eurafrique initiative; the Paris embassy and the British Foreign Office c. 1945-1949.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Roelwicz</td>
<td>University of Kent</td>
<td>“How to be Byzantium without becoming Byzantine”: Paul Gore-Booth, the Foreign Office, and Britain’s Second Application for Membership of the EEC, 1956-1957.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polly Corrigan</td>
<td>King’s College London</td>
<td>The Soviet Intelligence Service in the 1930s - a reappraisal of domestic activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin McDowell</td>
<td>University of Glasgow</td>
<td>‘Entente Cordiale? The role of the Chiefs of Staff and the Allied Military Committee in Anglo-French Liaison during the Phoney War, September 1939 to June 1940’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Whittington</td>
<td>University of the West of England</td>
<td>‘The 1942 Cripps Mission to India’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean Clay</td>
<td>Liverpool John Moores University</td>
<td>The Congo Reform Association and the beginning of Transnational Humanitarianism, 1903-1913.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fransjohan Pretorius</td>
<td>University of Pretoria</td>
<td>‘A promising beginning to a brilliant career: General Jan Smuts and the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Botfield</td>
<td>Aberystwyth University</td>
<td>‘British Counter-Espionage in the First World War; the Forgotten East African Experience’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Dunley</td>
<td>The National Archives</td>
<td>‘A “very remarkable system”. The Edwardian Foreign Office, its Registry and archive’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaynor Johnson</td>
<td>University of Kent</td>
<td>‘The Diplomatic Service List and the role of women in British foreign policy 1930-1975’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogelia Pastor-Castro</td>
<td>University of Strathclyde</td>
<td>‘The British Embassy in Paris and the Fall of France’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Smith</td>
<td>FCO</td>
<td>‘Flying the Lone Flag: the British Consul in Macau during the Second World War’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Schriffl</td>
<td>Austrian Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>‘From crisis to crisis: Austrian diplomatic representations in Czechoslovakia from the early 1950s to the late 1960s’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miklos Lojko</td>
<td>Eotvos Lorand University</td>
<td>‘Railways and Diplomats: The Failure of the League of Nations to Settle the Manchurian Crisis, 1931-1933’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quincy Cloe</td>
<td>Aberystwyth University</td>
<td>‘Truth-seekers or Peace-brokers? The League of Nations and its Commissions of Inquiry’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam Stowell</td>
<td>University of Manchester</td>
<td>“The Ancient Space” and the concept of civilisation in British international thought, 1919-1939”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
John Bagnall (Newcastle University) ‘“Patriotism is a strong plant, not a weed”: Britain, the Commonwealth and the Falklands Crisis, 1982-1990’.

Louise Clare (University of Manchester) ‘Misdirected propaganda caused by cultural differences between Argentina and Great Britain in the Falklands War’.

Victor Gavin (University of Barcelona) ‘What is a democracy? The British Foreign Office before the prospect of a democratic Spain (1975 – 1976)’.


Alessio Zuddas (University of Cagliari) ‘Cossiga – Thatcher: Bilateral relations between Italy and the United Kingdom during the Italian presidency of the European Council, 1980’.

Matt Jones (Keele University) ‘Military Intervention and Dispelling Cold War Fears: Mass Observers’ Responses to the Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991’.

Aviva Guttmann (Johns Hopkins University) ‘Who manipulated whom? Western Intelligence and Muammar al-Qaddafi’s involvement in the Palestinian armed struggle’.

Phil Morgan (Keele University) ‘The Paradox of Decline: Libya, Syria and the Role of Military Force in British Foreign Policy’.

Jonty White (London School of Economics) ‘From Europe to Siberia: Britain and the Connection between Japan’s Military Assistance and the Siberian Intervention during the First World War’.

Katie Griffiths (University of Nottingham) ‘British Propaganda and the difficulties of operating in Communist China, 1948-54’.

Anton Harder (LSE) ‘Mao’s diplomacy as struggle: confrontation with Nehru’s India, divergence from Moscow, and support for the Third World’.

Kai Bruns (American University of Ras Al Khaimah) ‘“It’s peaceful coexistence or no coexistence”: Codifying basic principles for an ideological battle’.


Caspar Bienek (Keele University) ‘The UK and the making of the Single European Act’.

Saho Matsumoto-Best (Nagoya City University) ‘The Vatican and International Organizations in their Historical Context’.


Antony Best (LSE) ‘“A Remarkable Nation”: The City of London and Loans to Japan, 1902-14’.


Ugo Bruschi (University of Bologna) ‘“A Country Subject to Frequent Mutations”: Reading the British Political System in the 18th Century in Italian Diplomatic Reporting’.

Andrew Cobbing (Nottingham University) ‘“Hands Off, I’m British!” Perceptions of Immunity from Arrest in the East’.


George Roberts (University of Warwick) ‘Uganda and the international history of the 1970s human rights ‘revolution’.

Todd Carter (University of Oxford) ‘“When I pop off and they open my heart, on it will be engraved ‘Fish’ and ‘Rhodesia’”: Diplomacy, the Kissinger-Crosland “Love Affair” and Rhodesia’.
Founding Fathers: Glyn Stone and John Young

To mark the departure of Professors John Young and Glyn Stone as Chair and Secretary respectively of the British International History Group, we asked long-standing committee member, Dr Michael Hopkins to pen a well-deserved tribute to two legendary BIHG stalwarts.

It was a year of revolutions in Europe when communist regimes fell across the Soviet bloc, reaching its emblematic moment with the fall of the Berlin Wall in November. It was also a year when a significant contribution was made to the study of international affairs in the United Kingdom with the first conference of the newly created British International History Group (BIHG). And the aptly named Dr Glyn Stone of Bristol Polytechnic became its founding secretary. The conference met at Bristol Polytechnic, where it returned (under its new name of the University of the West of England) for its twenty-fifth conference in 2013.

The first conference had emerged from the initiative of Glyn, Keith Hamilton (Aberystwyth and then the Foreign Office), Richard Langhorne (St John’s College, Cambridge), Peter Lowe (Manchester), Michael Dockrill (King’s College, London) and Dick Richardson (Teesside Polytechnic) during the conference of the British International Studies Association (BISA) in Aberystwyth in 1987. Although BISA, which had held its foundation conference in Oxford in 1975, embraced international history, it had a growing focus on international relations as understood by political scientists.

Glyn Stone, John Young and Richard Vinen at BIHG conference dinner at Keele Hall
This persuaded the founders of BIHG that there needed to be an organization that gave the opportunity for historians of international relations to meet and exchange ideas and to develop projects. They did not want this to take the form of a schism and so formed a group under the auspices of BISA. An annual conference in September became the focal point of the group’s activities. Glyn became secretary of BIHG and served in that position for the next thirty years. He has remained throughout that time the driving spirit of the organisation. His enthusiastic promotion of BIHG has meant that virtually every significant scholar of international history in the UK has been involved in BIHG at one time or another. Anyone who has hosted one of the twenty-nine conferences will know how dedicated Glyn has been. I hosted the conference in Liverpool in 2007 and Glyn came a day early to make sure everything was in place for the delegates who would be arriving the next day. He it was who ensured that each participant had a handsome wallet containing all the conference materials.

Glyn has taken the lead in developing a vibrant and active organisation. Over the years the conference has grown in numbers attending and presenting and the origins of participants have become increasingly international. BIHG has also sponsored seminars, workshops and has helped organise conferences, such that on the Paris Embassy. It has also encouraged work by young scholars. In particular, there is the annual BIHG Thesis Prize, which has attracted some fine work.

John Young was elected a member of BIHG’s executive committee in 1991, served as vice-chairman from 1994 to 2003 and as chairman from 2003 to 2017. John hosted the 1998 BIHG conference when he was at University of Leicester and the 2003 conference, following his move to the University of Nottingham. Besides being an adept chairman, John has played a vital role beyond BIHG – ensuring recognition of international history within the discipline. He was a member of the History sub-panel for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) of 2007-2008 and a member of the History sub-panel of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) of 2013-2014.

Glyn and John stepped down from their positions as chairman and secretary at the twenty-ninth conference at Keele University in September 2017, thirty years after the idea for BIHG was born. They offer impressive examples of dedicated work for our field and for BIHG. Their endeavours have ensured that they have bequeathed an organisation in robust good health.

Michael Hopkins
University of Liverpool
News from FCO Historians and the National Archives

In March the latest DBPO volume was published: Series III, Volume X, The Polish Crisis and Relations with Eastern Europe, 1979-1982 (Routledge, 2017). After coming to power in 1979, the Conservative Government of Margaret Thatcher reaffirmed a policy of 'differentiation' between the Soviet Union and the rest of Eastern Europe, and between individual countries; concurrently it encouraged states to exercise a limited amount of independence. This policy was soon put to the test when in 1980 Solidarnosc, the Solidarity trade union led by Lech Walesa, challenged the power of the Party state in Poland. Political demands, social unrest and economic crisis culminated in the imposition of martial law in December 1981, finally suspended in December 1982. The volume maps the UK response, in consultation with Western partners, to the unfolding crisis in Poland, the threat of Soviet intervention and the impact on other Communist states in Europe. The volume also provides a flavour of bilateral UK relations with Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia; highlighting themes such as human rights and trade.

In January 2017 the FCO Historians held a launch event to mark the publication of two linked volumes in Series I of Documents on British Policy Overseas: Volume X, The Brussels and North Atlantic Treaties 1947-49 (Routledge, 2014), and Volume XI, Economic Recovery and the Search for Western Security, 1946-48 (Routledge, 2016). The theme was ‘Britain and America: the Foundations of Western Security’, and speakers included Lord Hennessy, Professor David Reynolds, Sir Nigel Sheinwald and Lord Ricketts, as well as FCO Chief Historian Professor Patrick Salmon and the editors of the two volumes, Dr Tony Insall and Gill Bennett. These two volumes document key developments in the early Cold War, with particular reference to the Anglo-American relationship: the Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, signature of the Brussels Treaty and formation of NATO. Though today’s global context is quite different, the subject matter—Britain’s economic and security relationship with Europe and with the US—gives it obvious topicality. Many of the dilemmas reflected in the volumes mirror those under debate today.

FCO Historians

14th International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents

Many BIHG members will have used documentary sources like Documents on British Policy Overseas, Foreign Relations of the United States or Documents diplomatiques français in their research. But few may realise that there is an international network aimed at strengthening work in publishing official diplomatic documentation. The International Network of Editors of Diplomatic Documents was founded in 1988 to build collaboration and share best practice and management approaches.
Members of the network produce multi-volume series of scholarly editions of documents on foreign relations, which present a comprehensive documentary record of decision making and the implementation of foreign policy in their respective countries. In the last two years over 50 volumes have been published by different country projects. Find out more about their work at: http://diplomatic-documents.org

FCO Historians hosted the 14th biennial International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents at Lancaster House from 26 to 28 April 2017. It was the first time the conference had been held in London since the inaugural meeting in November 1989 (which coincided with the fall of the Berlin Wall). That occasion was attended by 21 people representing 10 countries. This time we greeted over 70 delegates representing a total of 25 countries. We took advantage of the UK’s rich variety of historical research institutions to broaden attendance at the conference and the range of themes discussed, inviting contributions from a wide range of partners, including The National Archives, the Margaret Thatcher Foundation, the British Diplomatic Oral History Programme, the Churchill Archives Centre, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Queen Mary University of London and the University of Oxford.

Topics discussed included chronological versus thematic approaches to publishing diplomatic documents; the use of published documents by academics and students; and the challenges and opportunities of oral history. There was also a session on the history of publishing programmes in various countries, including Poland and Hungary, with a contribution by Luke Gibbon of FCO Historians on ‘The unknown editor: Lillian Penson and British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898-1914’. The next conference will be held in Berlin in 2019.

New research on the FCO and homosexuality, 1967-91

On 4 July 2017, FCO Historians launched the latest in their series of History Notes: Homosexuality at the FCO, 1967-1991. The publication is the first to tell the story of the Diplomatic Service ban on gay men and lesbians representing Britain as diplomats overseas. From the partial decriminalization of same-sex acts in 1967, the FCO considered open homosexuality a security risk, and so resisted attempts to change its rules throughout the rise of gay liberation movements in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1991, then Prime Minister John Major announced that the ban would finally be lifted. The History Note was written by James Southern, a collaborative doctoral student jointly supervised by FCO Historians and Queen Mary University of London.

The launch event, held at the FCO in London, was opened by Sir John Major, who reflected at length on the importance of ensuring that Britain’s diplomats reflected the population they served. His introduction was then followed by a panel discussion featuring History Note author James Southern, Stonewall co-founder Lord Cashman, long-serving diplomat and LGBT campaigner Fiona Graph, former Ambassador to the EU Sir Stephen Wall, and openly gay former Ambassador to Athens John Kittmer. The discussion combined emotional retrospectives on the ban itself with appraisals of the situation of LGBT diplomats today. The publication and the event transcript may be downloaded at www.issuu.com/fcohistorians.

Some Useful Links:
- Colin Mackie’s website: http://www.gulabin.com/ This useful website contains a number of Directories of senior appointments and postholders in areas of public life (civil servants, diplomats and the armed forces) using resources such as the FO lists in Great Britain, as well as material for other countries.
- FCO Historians guide to research: https://issuu.com/fcohistorians/docs/fco_historians_-_a_guide_to_research
Throughout 2017 The National Archives have continued to engage in a wide range of activities related to international history, from files releases, to conferences and post graduate training.

Release News

Regular releases from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister’s Office, Cabinet Office and the Security Service have shed new light on the full sweep of British foreign policy in the later 1980s and early 1990s including reaction to the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In addition to offering historians considerable scope for new research these files occasionally provide some light relief, nowhere more so than in the communications from the British embassy in Kuwait during the siege in 1990. The crisis may have been acute, but the Ambassador, Michael Weston, still found time to report on the merits or otherwise of tuna lasagne, crab in cheese sauce, and curried frankfurter.

Nazi persecution files

Particularly important collections released in 2017 have included the final tranches of the Nazi persecution files, which document the scheme set up to compensate British victims of National Socialism. These records offer not only a rare insight into the personal experiences of men and women who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, but also the conflicting needs and memories of the groups who sought compensation. Though the British government had predicted a flood of applications from people recently naturalised who sought refuge in Britain during or after the war, they also found those who had fought in British uniform or lived in outlying occupied lands, such as the Channel Islands expected their share of the compensation.

National Archives Conference: The First World War and the Americas: from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego - Saturday, 1 July 2017

In addition to the document releases in July The National Archives held a conference on the Americas in the First World War. This used the centenary of the entry of the United States into the conflict as a starting point to examine American involvement in the war more generally, and especially the impact the conflict had across the two continents. In a series of wide ranging papers academics considered issues as diverse as the impact of war losses on Newfoundland society through to the economic effects of the war in Latin America. The event proved very successful, provoking discussion of an often overlooked aspect of the First World War.

Postgraduate archival skills training at The National Archives

Throughout the year we have continued to run our Postgraduate Archival Skills Training (PAST) programme. This is aimed primarily at PhD students, but also draws in Masters students who are preparing for their dissertations and considering continuing their research.

The programme comprises of an Introductory Day which looks broadly at archives and the basics of archival research and is designed to be applicable to students researching in any archive, certainly within the UK. The Level 2 Skills and Methodology workshops are spread over two days and deal in detail with how to conduct research into TNA collections.

The Modern Overseas workshop focuses on the records of the Foreign Office, Colonial and Dominions Offices and other collections relevant to students of international history. They include hands-on practical work on how to use finding aids including registers and indexes to access material in these collections. TNA will be running the programme again this year and details can be found on our website or by contacting our Research Team.

For further details see http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/our-research-and-academic-collaboration/events-and-training/postgraduate-archival-skills-training/
AHRC success for ‘The Weight of the Past in Franco-British Relations’ project

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has awarded BIHG colleagues Peter Jackson (University of Glasgow), Rogelia Pastor-Castro (University of Strathclyde) and Rachel Utley (University of Leeds), a research grant of c. £840,000 to for their project on ‘The Weight of the Past in Franco-British Relations.’ The project will seek to understand the role of representations of the past in the evolution of Franco-British relations since 1815, and their impacts on the conceptual horizons of political elites and foreign and defence policy-makers. It will also offer a new angle on scholarly debates concerning the role of history, memory and identity in the making of foreign and defence policy. Other BIHG colleagues involved in the project include, Patrick Finney, Thomas Otte, Martin Thomas, Charlotte Faucher, R Gerald Hughes, David Brown, and Georges-Henri Soutou.

The project’s partners and collaborators include the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the UK Embassy in Paris, the French Embassy, London, the UK Ministry of Defence, the French Ministry of Defence the Franco-British Council, The National Archives, Kew and the Maison Française, Oxford.

As part of the project, a number of knowledge exchange events will take place which will bring together historians and key current and former actors and stakeholders in Franco-British relations.

- Witness Seminar at RUSI
- Policy Engagement Colloquium at the British Embassy (Paris)
- Plenary session of the Franco-British Council’s Conference on Defence and Security Co-operation Project Conference (Maison Française, Oxford)
- The National Archives, Kew public lecture programme and public exhibition
Violent Resistance
From the Baltics to Central and South Eastern Europe 1945-1956
Wien Karl von Vogelsang-Institut Vienna
16-18 March 2017

Keith Dickson (National Defence University Washington D.C.) gave the introductory key-note-speech with the title “Understanding armed resistance in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as asymmetric warfare: lessons for the modern world”. He introduced a typology and defined phases of violent resistance. This frameset will be a guideline for the articles in the planned publication.

The following panel featured Poland, Belarus and the Ukraine. It explained the reasons for the Polish-Ukrainian antagonism as deeply rooted in history, which were discussed fiercely by audience and presenters.

Panel II brought a differentiated view on Czechoslovakia and its different parts and Hungary. Especially the case of Czechoslovakia made clear, that the term resistance itself has to be discussed too. Where does it start? Has every action against state authorities under certain circumstances already to be seen as resistance?

Panel IV made clear commonalities and differences of the violent resistance in the Baltics. “Forest Brothers” was the key word here. The participants used the evening of the first day for further networking and exchange of views.

Panel V on the next day was completely dedicated to the Ukraine. This time not only ideology and physical struggle but also the role of women played a central role here and have been discussed controversially.

Panel VI was the second panel exclusively discussing a single country. In the case of Romania, also the female part of the resistance was a topic and documents of the Securitate allowed the presenter to show an actual map of the hotspots of violent resistance there.

Panel VII saw a discussion about the critical assessment of sources and the question which sources are available for the topic not only in the case of Albania. The actions of the regime were the centre of the presentation regarding Yugoslavia, in Bulgaria the use of the resistance as an important part of the historical memory of post-Communist Bulgaria found an interested audience.

Panel VIII posed the question how the historian’s findings can be communicated to pupils. It further saw a presentation on the perception of the resistance by the Serbian urban elites and a talk on Stepan Bandera, which again triggered controversial discussions. The final discussion not only made a resume but also defined the necessary next steps.

On initiative of the Duke of Arenberg the conference took place March 16-18 2017. It was held in cooperation with the Arenberg foundation, the Institute for Modern and Contemporary Historical Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Karl von Vogelsang-Institute in the so called Springer-Schlössl near Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna.

The presentations were held in German and English language. The objective was to assess in a holistic manner to what extent the ways, origins and forms of violent resistance against local Communist authorities and Soviet rule from the Baltics to Central and South Eastern Europe, can be regarded as a success; or if it can even be regarded as resistance. Participants from almost all affected countries found ideal conditions for scientific discussions at the venue consisting of a hotel, a park and the institute itself.
Now we try to design a publication that not only comprises the presentations of the conference but also can serve as a handbook. For the first time we will try to give an overview about the origins and forms of violent resistance in the area from 1945 to 1956. An important aspect here is the cooperation beyond the geographical and historiographical borders. Many parallels and bloody overlapping (i.e. Poland and Ukraine) are examined using a common framework of analysis. Especially the present geopolitical situation makes such an approach necessary and important.

David Schriffl, Austrian Academy of Sciences

The Practice of International History in the 21st Century

As the international challenges of the past decade have demonstrated, understanding world politics has never been more important for British society. Professional international historians must play a leading role in promoting this understanding.

This AHRC funded project brought together a group of leading scholars and members of the policy community to produce a collective reconsideration of the nature and contemporary practice of international history. This international network comprised of historians, theorists of international relations and officials from the foreign policy community to reflect upon a number of core questions central to current and future practices in our field as well as the wider question of the role of international history in society.

The project’s five-person steering group was led by Peter Jackson (Glasgow) and Simon Ball (Leeds) and included Patricia Clavin (Oxford); Martin Thomas (Exeter); Patrick Salmon, Chief Historian at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. International participants in the network included Glenda Sluga (University of Sydney); Mark Mazower (Columbia); Laurence Badel (Pantheon - Sorbonne); and Steven Lobell (University of Utah).

The following workshops included PhD students and ECRs as full participants at every event.

- International Theory and International History – University Glasgow.
- The ‘Cultural Turn’ and the History of International Relations – University Glasgow
- Transnational and Global History - University of Leeds
- International History and the Practitioners of International Relations - Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The production of a ‘state of the field’ collection of essays will appear in the International History Review.
France, Europe and the World
University of Strathclyde 26th-27th June 2017.

The Society for the Study of French History held its 31st annual conference at the University of Strathclyde. The conveners Karine Varley, SSFH Treasurer and Rogelia Pastor-Castro, BIHG Secretary organised the conference under the theme ‘France, Europe and the World’, which attracted many BIHG colleagues. It was a great opportunity to once again bring the two groups together. The history of France has been profoundly shaped by its European and global entanglements. Whether through its diplomatic and military engagements, colonial encounters, cultural and intellectual exchanges, or the interconnections of trade and commerce, the porous and fluid nature of France’s borders have brought a complex range of influences upon France’s history. As the role and status of France within Europe and the wider world changed, so did perceptions and representations of France. This conference sought to explore French history from international, transnational and global perspectives.

Speakers included:
Professor Robert Gildea (Oxford), Professor Marie-Laure Legay (Lille 3), Professor John Merriman (Yale), and Professor Sophie Wahnich (CNRS).

The conference was granted a Civic Reception at Glasgow City Chambers and received support from the French Embassy in London.

Centre for Franco-British Relations, Normandy

Karine Varley and Rogelia Pastor-Castro as well as members of the BIHG and SSFH have been invited to join the Historical Committee for the proposed Centre for Franco-British Relations in Normandy. The project, placed under the patronage of the French National Commission of UNESCO, will be situated on the symbolic site of Sword Beach and will focus on History, Geography, Culture and Society. The British Ambassador to France hosted a launch event at the Embassy in November 2017 where the Mayor of Ouistreham Riva-Bella, Romain Bail, spoke about the aims of the €15m project and reinforced the message of strong bilateral relations. Historians from the BIHG and SSFH will contribute to the Centre’s content and participate in conferences and workshops.
BIHG Thesis Prize

The BIHG Thesis Prize was established in 1996. It is awarded annually to the best doctoral thesis on any aspect and any period of International History, which has been awarded a degree by a British University or a British University College or College of Higher Education during the calendar year. Authors should send two returnable copies (preferably copied on both sides of the page to reduce weight) of their thesis to Dr Michael Hopkins at the address below by 31 March of the year following that in which their doctorate is awarded. They should also inform Dr Hopkins of the names of their internal and external examiners, whose views on the thesis may be requested. The thesis is judged by a Panel drawn from members of the BIHG Committee. In judging the competition the Panel pay particular attention to originality of approach, thoroughness of research, style of writing and presentation, and contribution to historical scholarship. The result of the competition is announced at the annual conference each September.

Rules

1. The thesis prize is awarded annually.
2. Only theses awarded a doctoral degree by a United Kingdom University or University College or College of Higher Education are eligible for consideration.
3. The thesis can be on any aspect and period of International History.
4. The competition will be judged by a Panel drawn from members and officers of the BIHG Committee.
5. The final submission date is 31 March of the year following the award of the doctoral degree.
6. The doctoral degree must be awarded during the calendar year preceding the award of the prize. Candidates should include a copy of the correspondence from their university or college which confirms the award of the degree.
7. Candidates for the prize should submit two copies to the BIHG and these will be returned on completion of the competition.
8. Candidates should provide the names of their internal and external examiners, whose views on the thesis may be requested.
9. The successful candidate will be invited to present a paper on an aspect of his/her thesis to the annual conference of the BIHG where all their conference expenses will be met.

Address:
Dr Michael Hopkins, Department of History, University of Liverpool, 8-14 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7WZ.

BIHG Thesis Prize Winner

Dr. Mathias Haeussler won the BIHG Thesis Prize 2017 for his PhD thesis, “Helmut Schmidt and Anglo-German Relations, 1974-1982” (University of Cambridge, 2016). Awarded at the British International History Annual Conference, Keele University, September 2017
Interview with Mathias Haeussler, winner of BIHG Thesis Prize 2017

Email: mhh29@cam.ac.uk

Michael Hopkins: Which historian or historians have been influences?

Matthias Haeussler: I was extremely lucky to have been taught by a number of excellent historians over the years who greatly shaped my own approach, particularly during my undergraduate days at Queen Mary University of London: the late John Ramsden played a pivotal role in getting me interested in post-war Britain, and James Ellison was another early mentor – as well as the first person to introduce me to the many intricacies of the ‘Britain and Europe’ historiography! More generally, I admire the (admittedly somewhat rare…) combination of analytical rigour and stylistic brilliance that can be found in the works of Melvyn Leffler or David Reynolds – again, I was very fortunate to have been able to work under David for my Ph.D., since he has been the most supportive and wonderful supervisor one can imagine!

Michael Hopkins: Do you have a favourite book of history?

Matthias Haeussler: Two books I have picked up many times over the years are Melvyn Leffler’s For the Soul of Mankind, and Tony Judt’s Postwar – both are incredibly informative as well as highly entertaining! In terms of my narrower academic interest in European integration, I usually opt for works by Alan Milward or Piers Ludlow. And I am a sucker for good biographies, not least Peter Guralnick’s two-volume biography of Elvis Presley!

Michael Hopkins: Tell me how you came to concentrate on the topic of your thesis.

Matthias Haeussler: As a German growing up in the UK, I have always been fascinated by the very different discourses over ‘Europe’ in the two countries: why is it that Britain and Germany, with all their centuries-long political, economic, and cultural ties, still cannot see eye to eye over European integration to this day? When I then stumbled on Helmut Schmidt’s story – an initially highly Anglophile German chancellor who became disillusioned with British attitudes towards European integration during his time in office, and later even claimed that de Gaulle had been right to veto British EC membership in the 1960s – I knew that I had found something that would keep me occupied for at least three years!
**Michael Hopkins**: Tell me about how you pursued your topic.

**Matthias Haeussler**: I suppose I’ve deployed British rather than German methods: empirical findings from various archives put together in a pragmatic and largely non-dogmatic way! Perhaps more seriously, I thought it pivotal to base my research largely on newly declassified materials, given that the period of my investigation moved pretty neatly along the 30-year rule. A key challenge has been to deconstruct and free myself from Schmidt’s own narrative and interpretations, given that Schmidt was also a renowned journalist and author of over 30 books. I’ve therefore used his private archive in Hamburg a great deal, trying to historicise his narrative by embedding it firmly within the context of his particular generational experience and political socialisation in post-war Germany.

**Michael Hopkins**: Tell me about your approach and the conclusions you reached.

**Matthias Haeussler**: Perhaps unsurprisingly, I have come to disagree with Schmidt’s interpretation of British-German relations over the years! The dissertation challenges Schmidt’s damning verdict of Britain as Europe’s allegedly eternal ‘awkward’ partner. Instead, I argue that at the heart of British-German tensions over European unity during his chancellorship lay deeply competing visions for post-war European cooperation; incompatible strategies and mutual misperceptions rather than one-sided British obstructionism. I also uncover how Britain and Germany cooperated exceptionally closely outside the formal institutions of the European Communities (EC) to further West European interests in the Cold War. By linking these two seemingly separate developments through the perceptions of Schmidt as a key protagonist, I have tried to place the story of intra-EC tensions firmly within the wider picture of European cooperation during the Cold War, which changes how we think about Britain’s and Germany’s role in post-war Europe more generally.

Schmidt’s cliché-laden narrative ultimately reflects a particular (West) German perspective on post-war Europe, but it is not an adequate description of the nature and extent of British-German cooperation during his chancellorship. I therefore conclude by stressing the importance of underlying political and cultural narratives in our understanding of European integration, and suggest that we should embed its study more firmly within the wider international history of post-war Europe.

**Michael Hopkins**: What happens next?

**Matthias Haeussler**: I am a Junior Research Fellow at Magdalene College Cambridge, where I am currently putting the finishing touches on my book manuscript. After many years of delving into the depths of medium-range nuclear weapons and the hidden complexities of the CAP, I have also embarked upon a somewhat more light-hearted project: Elvis Presley and the Cold War!

**Michael Hopkins**

University of Liverpool
International History Seminar
Institute of Historical Research

Convenors:
Melanie Aspey (The Rothschild Archive), Christopher Baxter (The Cabinet Office), Antony Best (LSE), James Ellison (QMUL), Gaynor Johnson (Kent), Michael Kandiah (KCL), Saul Kelly (KCL), Effie Pedaliu (LSE), Richard Smith (FCO), Gillian Staerck (IHR), Kate Utting (KCL), J. Young (University of Nottingham).

Venue:
Pollard Room N301, 3rd floor, IHR, North block, Senate House

Time: 18.00
Twitter @IHR_IntlHistSem

http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminar/international-history

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 January 2018</td>
<td>Andrew Ehrhardt (King’s College, London)</td>
<td>The British Foreign Office and the intragovernmental battle over a future world order, 1941-44</td>
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<td>23 January 2018</td>
<td>Luc-Andre Brunet (Open University)</td>
<td>Canada, the Europemissiles Crisis, and Pierre Trudeau’s Peace Initiative, 1983-84,</td>
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<td>6 February 2018</td>
<td>Christopher Hill (Birmingham City University)</td>
<td>Britain, West Africa and the “New Nuclear Imperialism”: Decolonisation and Development during French Tests</td>
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<td>15 February 2018</td>
<td>Kathleen Burk (University College London)</td>
<td>The Dockrill Lecture: The Lion and the Eagle: the British and American empires, 1783-1972</td>
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<td>20 February 2018</td>
<td>Rachel Utley (University of Leeds)</td>
<td>An Entente in Good Heart? UK-French relations under Thatcher and Giscard, 1979-81</td>
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<td>6 March 2018</td>
<td>Erik Goldstein (Boston University)</td>
<td>The Ambassadors: The Struggle in Britain to Maintain a Career Service, 1919-39</td>
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<td>24 April 2018</td>
<td>Erika Tominaga (King’s College, London)</td>
<td>UK/US Japanese relations in Middle East during 1970s</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 May 2018</td>
<td>Stef Pukallus (University of Sheffield)</td>
<td>European civil integration</td>
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<td>22 May 2018</td>
<td>Vincent Hiribarren (King’s College, London)</td>
<td>African cross-border issues</td>
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<td>5 June 2018</td>
<td>Justin Olmstead (University of Central Oklahoma, USA)</td>
<td>Relationship between Churchill and Eisenhower</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 June 2018</td>
<td>Charles Spicer</td>
<td>Ambulant Amateurs’: the rise and fade of the Anglo-German Fellowship</td>
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Journals

**Diplomacy and Statecraft**  
(ISSN 0959 2296)

The Editor of Diplomacy and Statecraft (Taylor & Francis) is Professor Brian McKercher of Victoria University, British Columbia, Canada. Professor McKercher welcomes articles on all aspects of International/Diplomatic History.

The latest issues of the journal contained articles by several members of the BIHG including Andrew Cobbing, ‘Opening Legations: Japan’s First Resident Minister and the Diplomatic Corps in Europe’ and Andrew Williams, ‘France and the Origins of the United Nations, 1944–1945: “Si La France ne compte plus, qu’on nous le dise”.

Manuscripts, submitted in duplicate, and editorial correspondence should be sent to B.J.C. McKercher, Editor, Diplomacy & Statecraft, Department of History, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3045 STN CSC Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P4 Canada.  
E-mail: brianmck@uvic.ca

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**International History Review**  
(ISSN 0707 5332)

The Editor of the International History Review (Taylor & Francis) is Professor Alan Dobson (Swansea University) and the book reviews editor, Dr Gavin Bailey. Members and supporters of the British International History Group are encouraged to submit articles, on all aspects of International History, and to ensure that publishers send review copies of any research monographs they publish to the journal.

Message from Professor Alan P. Dobson

The International History Review to members of BIHG.

In January 2017, I took over the IHR from my old friend and colleague Andy Williams. The hand-over was smooth, much due to the ongoing help that Andy and his wife Jane provided. Even so, it has been quite a learning curve and only now after 9 months or so in charge do I really feel comfortable and ready to make a little of my own mark on the journal.

One strategy that I am keen to pursue is closer relations with the British International History Group, the foremost organisation in the country with a vested interest in the success of the IHR as it is one of the main vehicles for publication for its members. After attending a meeting of the BIHG’s executive committee earlier this year, names and contact addresses have been passed to me of those members willing to peer review and write book reviews for the IHR. All that is greatly appreciated. Currently we are trying to expand the book review section and that list of willing colleagues will be a great help. However, to do that we not only need reviewers but also books. So, any colleague with a new publication please contact the book review editor Gavin Bailey g.j.bailey@stir.ac.uk; gjizbailey@gmail.com and liaise with your publisher.

The other ambition that I’ve brought to the IHR is to expand the number of themed issues. This is already bearing fruit and seems to have great future potential. However, and most to the point for the BIHG, it seems to me that things might be tweaked in order to expand the possibility for themed collections to emerge from the BIHG annual conference. Ideally it would be nice to see a sort of BIHG themed issue of the IHR once a year. Clearly on this the ball is now in the court of the members of the BIHG!

A third issue is the idea of what I’ve called “research resource articles”. One of these, by John Young, will appear in the first issue of the IHR in 2018. It would be good for the IHR and for the profession for papers like this to appear from time to time. I would not imagine that we’d be looking at more than perhaps 2 or 3 a year at the most, but I think that such publications would provide an important and valuable aspect for the journal.

Finally, I would welcome any constructive comments or suggestions on or about the IHR from members of the IHR.

Recent Publications by BIHG members


In early summer 2017 incoming BIHG Chair Patrick Finney published an edited collection of essays on the remembrance of the Second World War. Tracing national, international and transnational processes of commemoration, the essays in the book make clear the crucially important role of collective memories in contemporary international relations. Remembering the Second World War brings together an international and interdisciplinary cast of leading scholars to explore the remembrance of this conflict on a global scale. Conceptually, it is premised on the need to challenge nation-centric approaches in memory studies, drawing strength from recent transcultural, affective and multidirectional turns.

Divided into four thematic parts, this book largely focuses on the post-Cold War period, which has seen a notable upsurge in commemorative activity relating to the Second World War and significant qualitative changes in its character. The first part explores the enduring utility and the limitations of the national frame in France, Germany and China. The second explores transnational transactions in remembrance, looking at memories of the British Empire at war, contested memories in East-Central Europe and the transnational campaign on behalf of Japan’s former ‘comfort women’. A third section considers local and sectional memories of the war and the fourth analyses innovative practices of memory, including re-enactment, video gaming and Holocaust tourism. Offering insightful contributions on intriguing topics and illuminating the current state of the art in this growing field, this book will be essential reading for all students and scholars of the history and memory of the Second World War.

Further details are available on the publisher’s website at https://www.routledge.com/Remembering-the-Second-World-War/Finney/p/book/9781138808140. A 20% discount is available on orders made directly through the publisher using the code: FLR40.

This work examines the attempt by the governments of Portugal, Rhodesia and South Africa to defy the drive for African independence in the 1960s and 70s, and the international community’s response. From 1961 to 1974, Portugal, Rhodesia and South Africa collaborated in the attempt to preserve white minority rule in their respective territories. Hard-pressed by African nationalists, recently decolonized states, and many of the world’s Great Powers, they supported each other economically, politically and militarily, turning southern Africa into a major diplomatic concern which defied Cold War logic. This book examines how this collaboration came about and how the international community responded to it, paying close attention to the evolving situation in each country. The Portuguese Revolution of April 1974 undid this ‘white redoubt’, and the diplomatic policy subsequently adopted by apartheid South Africa – détente – led it to sacrifice Rhodesia in return for the illusion of permanent safety. A true work of transnational history, this book is based on the archival material of eight different countries, yet it serves as well as an introduction to the politics of southern Africa during the late colonial era.

Further details are available on the publisher’s website at https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137447579


This book explores British post-colonial foreign policy towards Kenya from 1963 to 1980. It reveals the extent and nature of continued British government influence in Kenya after independence. It argues that this was not simply about neo-colonialism, and Kenya’s elite had substantial agency to shape the relationship. The first section addresses how policy was made and the role of High Commissions and diplomacy. It emphasises contingency, with policy produced through shared interests and interaction with leading Kenyans. It argues that British policy-makers helped to create and then reinforced Kenya’s neo-patrimonialism. The second part examines the economic, military, personal and diplomatic networks which successive British governments sustained with independent Kenya. A combination of interlinked interests encouraged British officials to place a high value on this relationship, even as their world commitments diminished.

Further details are available on the publisher’s website at https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137447579


In this edited volume twenty-five scholars, many members of the BIHG, explore the role that commerce played in Britain’s foreign relations, in a century when trade and commerce became an inseparable element in foreign and security policies. The book examines the changing attitudes of British diplomats towards trade and their support for British commercial interests across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, set against a backdrop of relative economic decline, decolonization and the Cold War.

Further details are available on the publisher’s website at https://www.palgrave.com/de/book/9783319562759#aboutAuthors


Dean Acheson was the most influential American diplomat of the twentieth century. He shaped the pivotal shift in American foreign policy from isolation to engagement in global affairs. This critical re-evaluation of Acheson’s public career analyzes his advocacy of intervention against Germany and Japan in 1939-1941, work on sanctions against Japan in 1941, contribution to the creation of new international institutions, and campaigns to secure the support of Congress and the American public. It scrutinizes his crucial role in the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, NATO, the formation of democratic governments in Germany and Japan, and involvement in the Korean War. It examines his advice on Europe and Vietnam to presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. Acheson was the architect of the policy of containing the Soviet Union that endured to the end of the Cold War. The book argues that Acheson was slower to abandon the prospect of understandings with the Soviets and the communists in China than his memoirs claim; his focus on the North Atlantic did not exclude his deep concern for Asian; and the policy of containment was part of his wider belief that American power brought the obligation to promote a stable international order.

**Book Review**


If ever there was an enduring historiographical myth, it is that the field of International History has long been dormant. This volume, the fourth in a series produced by Barbara Haider-Wilson, William D. Godsey, and Wolfgang Mueller at the Institute for Modern and Contemporary History in Vienna, decisively refutes that myth. International History is a rich and vital field of investigation and this volume demonstrates its new multivariate approaches, its ever-extending source base, and its increasingly interdisciplinary angles of enquiry. This handbook serves as the most thorough guide anyone could wish for, and it will be especially useful to graduate students; it not only debunks the misconceptions around the field, but also develops a deeper understanding of its theories and practice.

Across just over eight hundred pages, the editors have amassed quality essays which highlight the dynamism of International History in an increasingly globalised world where borders and the nation-states which they denote have undergone profound changes. Twenty-seven International History practitioners lay out their responses to these developments, accompanied by extensive suggestions for further reading. These methodological responses cover a staggering range, one almost inconceivable in terms of the skill employed across multiple historical periods and perspectives. Drawing out the overarching connection between twenty-seven wide-ranging essays is no mean feat yet Haider-Wilson cements all of this together in her excellent introduction: her witty prognosis for the field, “Humpty Dumpty, the Historical Discipline, and Pluralism,” sets out the present-day challenges to writing International History wrought by increased globalisation and historiographical shifts and outlines how the volume identifies and defines the ways in which these can be overcome. Four large sections segment the book: Epochs, Methods/Approaches, Historiographical Areas, and Topics/Concepts. Under each of these categories the contributors offer essays in English and German on the methodological underpinnings of a varied discipline and the pragmatic implications of new developments for writing International History.

The first thematic section entitled “Epochs” features the broadest and most immediately enlightening definition of the field. Few books dealing with International History as a discipline can claim to do so from the Fall of Rome to the Fall of the Berlin Wall, but the first essay by Josef Wiesehöfer, “Ancient History and International History,” begins this commanding overview. The aim of the volume as a whole here is not to apply newer theories to older epochs, but to disentangle the focus of International History from the contemporary states-system and to engage instead with political evolution as it occurred throughout history and across the globe. A worthwhile endeavour, achieved with great success by Wiesehöfer and Jonathan Shephard, Martin Kintzinger, Hillard von Thiessen, and Michael Gehler who together discuss the repercussions of bygone international developments in their works on the ancient world, the Byzantine Middle East, the European Middle Ages, dynasties in Early Modern Europe, and the fragmentation and integration of Europe in the twentieth century respectively.
The second section diverts our attention more specifically towards the latest “Methods/Approaches” of International History. It is in this section that the rich vibrancy and relevance of International History as a discipline appears most strongly. Dominic Eggel opens with a concise but rich exploration of the field under both its old branding of ‘diplomatic history’ and its new one of ‘international history.’ Eggel charts the necessary changes the field has undergone from the “nostalgic” practices of narrowly-defined diplomatic history which, in his and many others’ views, are no longer “feasible nor desirable.” The scene is well set then for the rest of this section’s contributors to take up the gauntlet in updating the reader on current trends in International History. Patrick Finney reaffirms the field’s dynamic ability to reinvent itself by providing a richly detailed account of the cultural turn within the Anglo-American community of International Historians. Finney is remarkably insightful to consider to what extent this turn has driven a wedge amongst ‘traditional diplomatic’ and ‘culturalist’ historians and, in turn, how this has impacted the formation of history organisations and the job market on both sides of the Atlantic. Taking masterful stock of the changes within the discipline, Wilfried Loth articulates the new multidimensional role of International History as a discipline which intersects so many others and is best suited to delve across the varied ways society today operates. Loth’s view of International History is an expansive one, which incorporates a multitude of perspectives “from states to societies, from diplomats to public opinion, from power politics to soft power, from military power to economic and moral forces” and so on; the scope and reach of International History are virtually unlimited.

Finally, the two concluding essays in this section deal with the most recent fork in the road and offer up a roadmap ahead. Axel Körner delivers a lucid and wide-ranging take on transnational history that spells out the major developments, theories, and frameworks of a methodology which has permeated into the practice of International History. Brigitte Leucht develops on Körner’s section by questioning the potential and limitations of increased interdisciplinary techniques arising from transnational approaches which force historians to deal with multiple aspects, identities, and contexts. Whilst such considerations can often run foul of jargon and abstractions, Leucht produces a think-piece tightly bound to a case study of European post-war integration which adds precision to her argument. Taken together, this section forms one of the strongest cruxes of the volume; clarity in discussing large notions features alongside a sharp focus on practical implementation.

The third thematic section speaks to the recent spatial turn within International History. In “Historiographical Areas” historians take a global approach to how International History operates in specific regional contexts. Charles S. Maier, someone who noted previously the “languishing” state of diplomatic history, now offers a rallying cry arguing the opposite. Maier contributes a perceptive essay on the historiographical perils of the popular global approach to United States history. Heinz Duchhardt, Laurence Badel, Alexander Medyakov, and Renate Pieper each provide their own take on the historiography of International History within Germany, France, Russia, and Latin America respectively. A common theme in their works, and relevant to the volume’s construction overall, is the international influences and collaborations which have shaped the study of International History. Bert G. Fragner presents a candid and introspective take on how orientalists have grappled with international theories in writing the history of Islamic civilisation. Whilst Fragner’s chapter offers up a helpful introduction to an unfamiliar field, a succinct intervention into the debate over Edward Said’s Orientalism and an historiographical outline of Islamic studies in general, this contribution would have benefitted from a stronger emphasis on the role of religion and religious identity from an international perspective. John E. Wills Jr., meanwhile, expands the Asian focus further toward what he identifies as the ‘five frontiers’ of China which have shaped its history and subsequent interaction with the world. In his clear analysis Wills forces us to think beyond the modern-day independent China and towards China as an interregional and interdependent Asian entity intrinsically stitched into a “patchwork of many smaller neighbours.” From this vantage point, the longer history of international interactions, Wills argues, provides us with a deeper understanding of the rise of modern-day BRIC countries. Sadly, little space is reserved for the most well-known example of this interconnection, the Silk Road, which, as Peter Frankopan recently argued, formed the globalising backbone of Asian, if not world, history. Meanwhile Andreas Eckert completes a global tour with an examination of Africa’s place in the world and the world in Africa from colonialism to human rights intervention to modern-day corporate interests. There are many rich insights to be drawn, but a notable example is Eckert’s reflection on the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations and how this international organisation impacted and subsequently interacted with the local elites in Africa. These final four

essays—by Pieper, Fragner, Wills Jr., and Eckert—give much needed balance to a volume which otherwise predominantly focuses on European matters.

The final section closes with nine case studies which discuss particular “Topics/Concepts” within International History as well as spanning a broad temporal range. A notable theme within this section is the attention paid to transnational groups. Franciscas de Haan leads with her insightful critique of “nation-centred history” which obscures, in her view, the intricate interplay of non-state actors across national boundaries. Her argument rests on the fruitful exploration of international women’s movements and the transnational connections between the three largest women’s organisations during the post-WWII era—the International Council of Women (ICW), the International Alliance of Women (IAW), and the Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF) - which she rightly demonstrates were “steeped in the international politics of their time.” Jonathan Denkel-Chen and Jonathan Spangler put forward separate but similar contributions on subaltern agents who also criss-cross national, regional, and societal networks; in Dekel-Chen’s case the Jewish community who interacted within non-Jewish polities “as threads in the fabric of International History” and in Spangler’s interesting essay on the transregional aristocrats of the Houses of Lorraine and Beauvau who followed their royal patrons in a truly international political migration across European dynasties. Meanwhile Peter Becker adds to the emerging consensus on a new dynamic history of the Habsburg Monarchy with his focus on internationalisation of certain non-state agents and ministries within the Monarchy during the long nineteenth century. His use of the 1905 International Fishery Congress in Vienna as a concise prism through which we can see the emergence of what he calls “the early form of public-private partnerships.” Becker is, however, also properly careful to address the failures as well as successes of the collaboration between state and non-state actors. A not dissimilar approach appears in Frans Willem Lantink’s essay on the International History of an institution, the Roman Catholic Church, which he shows also cut across the conceptual boundaries of “diplomatic history, ideological history, and communication history.” Whilst Lantink’s work focuses primarily on the West, Haider-Wilson pivots the focus towards Palestine in the East. Her own contribution offers a fascinating longue-durée view of the European diplomatic footprint in the region when it formed part of the Ottoman Empire.

In keeping with the latest historiographical developments within International History, this volume also pays attention to two of the most interesting new topics, environment and culture. Richard P. Tucker demonstrates the international repercussions arising from the militarisation of natural resources by focusing not on their utilisation in wartime but rather on the aftermath and legacies of such use. From this perspective of “warfare ecology” Tucker marches throughout predominantly European wars to provide a sense of the integral role of environmental elements within regional, global, and international histories. The cultural turn is best exemplified in the final essays. Arno Strohmeyer pays homage to the volume’s location of origin with his discussion of the microcosm of intercultural coffeehouse culture within sixteenth to eighteenth-century Habsburg relations with the Ottoman Empire. Carolin Viktorin and Jessica Gienow-Hecht show a similar sensitivity in their innovative approach to cultural diplomacy. Both tackle a core problem posed by ‘culture’ in diplomacy, namely that culture connotes different meanings depending on the perspective and identity of the actor. Viktorin and Gienow-Hecht advocate the study of ‘Nation Branding’ to examine how this difference in perception matters in interstate relations. In this case they analyse the Francoist regime in Spain to uncover how state actors portrayed their state on the world stage and how this in turn affected the power of the state in post-WWII Europe.

Collectively these sections flow together to build the reader’s knowledge from the largest temporal and methodological scales to micro-historical examples. This not to say there are no shortcomings in the volume, however. Greater attention could have been given to areas beyond Europe. Whilst several essays touch upon extra-European regions, these are in the minority and in some cases still hinge upon European interactions and sources. This slight criticism should not at all detract from the overwhelming strengths of this volume, which particularly lie in the detailed and nuanced discussion of different methodologies, their practical implementation, and the new directions in a vibrant historical field. This comes as a direct result of astute editorship and the considerable ambition and foresight to cover such a broad range on such a large scale. In addition, all of this is complemented by an exhaustive multilingual bibliography helpful to historians of all backgrounds. Practitioners of International History will find this volume a must-read or must-consult resource. The editors should receive the highest praise for an exceptionally functional and valuable volume on International History.

Jonathan Singerton
University of Edinburgh
BIHG Committee 2017-2018

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Dr Patrick Finney  
Aberystwyth University

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QMUL

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PG ECR Representatives:  
Dr George Roberts, University of Cambridge  
Dr Poppy Cullen, University of Cambridge

Committee Member (Newsletter):  
Dr Martin Folly  
Brunel University London

Co-opted Members:  
Dr Richard Dunley, The National Archives  
Dr Richard Smith, Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Professor Alan Dobson, International History Review

The Editor would like to thank all the contributors. Please send items for the newsletter, and the news and events e-mail bulletins to Dr Robert McNamara rm.mcnamara@ulster.ac.uk. The deadline for the newsletter is 30 September 2018.

You can also follow us on twitter and tweets for @BIHGroup can be sent to Dr George Roberts gr316@cam.ac.uk
The BIHG Committee invites you to contribute a paper to the conference. As in previous conferences we are pleased to receive offers to present papers on a wide range of subjects in International History, for any period. These include:

- Inter-State Diplomatic Relations
- Domestic Issues in Foreign Policy
- History of International Relations
- Military History (including strategic issues, POWs etc)
- Intelligence and/or Propaganda
- International Organisations and Institutions
- Inter-Imperial Relations
- International Economic Relations
- Cultural and/or Transnational Processes

The committee accepts both individual paper (20 minutes) and complete panel submissions consisting of three 20 minute papers. We also welcome the submission of multiple panels on a related theme; papers from such panels will be considered for publication in a themed issue of the International History Review.

If you wish to offer a paper, please submit your details and 250 word abstract online at www.bihg.ac.uk

The deadline for receipt of offers to contribute is **16 April 2018**

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Please note that this year the BIHG will waive the conference registration fee for BISA members. We encourage all BIHG members to join BISA; BISA membership fees are tax deductible and there are reduced rates for ECRs and PG students.

For details see: https://www.bisa.ac.uk/index.php/membership