



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of History

CAMBRIDGE INTELLIGENCE SEMINAR

MICHAELMAS TERM 2021

Convenors: Professor Christopher Andrew (cma1001@gmail.com), Dr Dan Larsen (drl37@cam.ac.uk), Dr Thomas Maguire (t.j.maguire@fgga.leidenuniv.nl), Dr John Ranelagh (johnranelagh@yahoo.com), Dr Daniela Richterova (daniela.richterova@kcl.ac.uk), Dr Tim Schmalz (ts633@cam.ac.uk), Dr Calder Walton ([Calder Walton@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:Calder_Walton@hks.harvard.edu)), Sir Richard Dearlove and Professor Simon Heffer.

Twitter: @CamIntelligence

The Seminar will continue for now to convene virtually using Zoom. In order to attend, you must be subscribed to our mailing list. The Zoom link will be distributed in advance of the session. To subscribe, please email Dr Dan Larsen (drl37@cam.ac.uk) with a brief indication of your affiliation or interest in the Seminar. On any technical queries, please email Dr Dan Larsen.

Seminars are not recorded.

5-30 pm Friday 8 October

David Gosling (Clare Hall): 'The Rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan and Confrontation on the Pakistan Border'

During his principalship of Edwardes College, a university college in Peshawar in northwest Pakistan, David Gosling received a *fatwa* from the Taliban condemning him for promoting women's education. His previous academic work has been in scientific areas, and has included lecturing at Cambridge University and a Visiting Fellowship in energy studies at the East-West Center in Hawaii. He has been an intelligence asset for MI6 and is a Life Member and former Research Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge. He is the author of *Frontier of Fear: Confronting the Taliban on Pakistan's Border* (2016).

5-30 pm Friday 15 October

Christopher Andrew (Corpus Christi): 'Stars and Spies: Intelligence operations and the entertainment business' (illustrated)

Before WW1 the first chief of MI6 purchased his disguises from the same supplier as West End theatres (and Virginia Woolf). *Stars and Spies* by Christopher Andrew and Julius Green, published on 14 October, analyses the interactions past and present between intelligence and showbiz.

5-30 pm Friday 22 October

Philip Zelikow (University of Virginia): '9/11: Its Lessons'

Professor Zelikow is in the forefront of geopolitical thinkers with a distinguished career as both academic and US diplomat, as a member of the National Security Council under President George H.W. Bush, and as a member of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board under President Obama. He served as Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission. His latest book is *The Road Less Traveled: The Secret Battle to end the Great War*.

5-30 pm 29 October

Helen Fry: 'Spymaster: A Life in Secrets'

The head of MI6 in Vienna from 1925, Thomas Joseph Kendrick was one of the most senior spymasters of the British Secret Service in the 20th century. Tracking Communist agents across Europe in the 1920s and Nazi spies in the 1930s, Kendrick ran spy networks into Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy and Nazi Germany. Dubbed 'the elusive Englishman', his real identity eluded Hitler's Secret Service (the Abwehr) until his betrayal by a double agent in the summer of 1938. He was expelled for spying but went on to head one of the most important intelligence operations of the Second World War that shortened the war and saved thousands of lives.

5-30 pm Friday 5 November

Philipp Hirsch (Sidney Sussex, Cambridge): 'Politics as Counterterrorism: The Role of Diplomacy in the West German Response to Palestinian Terror, 1970-75'

Throughout the 1970s, West Germany was affected by Palestinian terror attacks. Some took place on West German soil, others involved the Federal Republic's citizens. In its response, the West German state drew heavily on diplomatic channels. Its diplomats set up ever-closer networks of communication with the Palestinian movement. They undertook sustained and expanding efforts to negotiate with representatives of violent Palestinian organisations. These processes illustrate the role diplomats can play in counterterrorism and demonstrate the internal dynamics as well as complexities of governmental decision-making when it comes to counterterrorism.

5-30 pm Friday 12 November

Ioanna Iordanou (Oxford Brookes): 'Venice's Secret Service: Intelligence Organisation in the Renaissance'

Very different from the rudimentary spy networks created by powerful rulers in the Renaissance period, early modern Venice was emblematic in its creation of a centrally administered state intelligence organisation. One of the world's earliest state intelligence services, this was a public sector organisation that operated with remarkable complexity and maturity, comprising functions of operations (intelligence and covert action), science and technology (cryptography, steganography and production of poison), and analysis. At the helm of this organisation was the Council

of Ten – the executive committee responsible for state security in Venice, supported by the *Inquisitori di Stato* – the Venetian counter-intelligence magistracy. This talk will outline the structure of the Venetian secret service, the variety of spies and intelligencers it employed, and the extraordinary measures it utilised to secure Venice's initially firm and gradually dwindling grip over political – and also economic – affairs both in the East and in the West.

5-30 pm Friday 19 November

Michael Chertoff and Patrick Bury: 'Adapting Western Intelligence for the New Decade'

Based on their [recent RUSI Journal article](#), former Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, and Dr Patrick Bury (University of Bath) will examine the re-emergence of near-peer competition and the increasing complexity and pace of events in the coming decade to argue that Western services must improve their strategic intelligence collection, analysis and information exchange to focus on increasing strategic threats. Simultaneously, the continuing evolution of terrorism will require counterterrorism intelligence to also adapt.

5-30 pm Friday 26 November

Simon Miles (Duke University): 'The Problems of Perestroika: The KGB and Mikhail Gorbachev's Reforms'

With KGB officials among the key leaders of the August 1991 coup attempt to oust General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, the KGB is commonly portrayed as a staunch opponent of Gorbachev's reform process. This characterization obscures how the KGB rank-and-file responded to and participated in the reforms. Using their own words and experiences, recorded in the KGB's top-secret in-house journal, *Sbornik KGB SSSR*, this talk examines how everyday KGB officers navigated liberalizing reforms—which these officers played an active and evolving role implementing and shaping. In these first-hand accounts, a sense of loss of control is clear, both over events unfolding in the Soviet Union and over their own leading role and privileged position within it.