

# The Fischer Controversy

## 50 years on

13-15 October 2011  
German Historical Institute London

### Programme

Thursday 13 October 2011

Registration from 1.00 pm

1.30pm: Welcome (**Andreas Gestrich**) and Opening Introduction (**John Röhl** and **Annika Mombauer**)

1.45 – 3.15: **Panel 1: Reflections on a Controversy**

Chair: **Richard Evans**

**Hartmut Pogge**

von **Strandmann**: The political and historical significance of the Fischer Controversy

**Geoff Eley**: The historiographical ramifications of the Fischer Controversy

3.15 – 3.45 *Tea Break*

3.45 – 5.45: **Panel 2: International Reactions to the Fischer Controversy**

Chair: **James Retallack**

**John Keiger**: French reactions to the Fischer controversy, and French views on the origins of the war 50 years on

**Joshua Sanborn:** Russian historiography on the origins of the war since the Fischer controversy

**Matthew Stibbe:** The Fischer Controversy in the GDR

5.45 – 6.15: *Tea Break*

6.15 – 8.00 **Round Table Discussion:**  
The Insiders' views of the Fischer Controversy

**Chair:** Andreas Gestrich

Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann, Helmut Bley, Bernd Söseemann, Gerd Krumeich

8.00 Conference reception at the GHI

### Friday 14 October 2011

9.00 -10.30 **Panel 3: New Evidence on the Decisions for War**

**Chair:** Dominic Lieven

**Günther Kronenbitter:** New Light on Austria-Hungary's decision for war in 1914

**Bruce Menning:** Russian Intelligence during the July Crisis

10.30 -11.00 *Tea Break*

11.00 – 1.00 **Panel 4: New Evidence on the Decisions for War**

**Chair:** Alan Kramer

**John C. G. Röhl:** War Premeditated? The "War Council" of 8 December 1912 revisited

**Annika Mombauer:** New Evidence on the Immediate Origins of the War: International documents

**Stig Förster:** *Staatskunst und Kriegshandwerk*. Bethmann Hollweg and the coming of the First World War

1.00 – 2.00 ***Lunch***

2.00 – 4.00 **Panel 5: The war aims of the Central and Entente Powers**

**Chair:** **Thomas Otte**

**Holger Afflerbach:** The war aims of the Central Powers

**Keith Neilson:** British aims in the First World War

**David Schimmelpenninck**

**van der Oye:** Tsarist Russia's war aims

4.00 - 4.30 ***Tea Break***

4.30 – 6.30 **Panel 6: German *Auskreisung* or *Einkreisung*?**

**Chair:** **David Stevenson**

**Frank Nägler:** *Auskreisung?* The Anglo-German Antagonism and the Tirpitz Plan

**Matthew Seligmann:** The Royal Navy and the German Threat: The Trade Defence Dimension

**Andreas Rose:** “The Committee of Four” – The „Blue Funk School“, the C.I.D., and the Myth of the German Peril (1906–1909)

8.00 **Dinner** (at a nearby restaurant, at delegates' own expense)

**Saturday 15 October 2011**

9.00 – 11.00

**Panel 7: New Evidence on the Decision for War**

**Chair:** Frank Müller

**Christopher Clark:** Serbia and the coming of war in 1914

**Stefan Schmidt:** French decision-making in July 1914 and French war aims

**Christopher Duggan:** Italy's decision against and for war, and Italy's war aims

11.00 – 11.30

*Tea Break*

11.30 – 1.00

**Panel 8: Revolutionisation in Russia and the Middle East**

**Chair:** Kathy Lerman

**Jennifer Jenkins:** Jihad or Nationalist Uprising? Germany's 'Programme for Revolution' in the Middle East

**John W. Steinberg** The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk from the Soviet perspective

1.00 – 2.00

*Lunch*

2.00 – 3.30

**Panel 9: The First World War in the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

**Chair:** Jost Dülffer

**Gerhard Hirschfeld:** Continuities? From the First to the Second World War

**Jonathan Steinberg:** Final reflections on the Fischer controversy

**Hew Strachan:** Summary Remarks

3.30

End of conference