Cultures of Conservatism in the United States and Western Europe between the 1970s and 1990s

German Historical Institute London, 14-16 September 2017

Conference organized by Tobias Becker (German Historical Institute London), Anna von der Goltz (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.) and Martina Steber (Institut für Zeitgeschichte München-Berlin)

Co-funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, the GHIL and the BMW Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University

Thursday, 14 September

1.00 – 1.45 pm
Welcome by Andreas Gestrich, Director of the German Historical Institute London
Introduction by Tobias Becker (London), Martina Steber (Munich), and Anna von der Goltz (Washington, DC)

Panel 1: Conservatism on Screen: Film and TV
Chair: Tobias Becker (London)

1.45 – 3.00 pm
Maya Pinhasi (Tel Aviv): American Conservatism and the Making of Corporate Hollywood
Nikolai Wehrs (Konstanz): “Yes Minister”. A Popular Sitcom as an Educational Medium for Thatcherism?

3.00 – 3.30 pm
Tea and Coffee

3.30 – 5.00 pm
6.00 – 8.00 pm

Roundtable Discussion:
Cultures of Conservatism in an Age of Transformation – Interpreting Conservatism between the 1970s and 1990s

Chair: Christina von Hodenberg (London)
Discussants: Andy Beckett (The Guardian, author of When the Lights Went Out: Britain in the Seventies and Promised you a Miracle: Why 1980-82 Made Modern Britain), Frank Bösch (Potsdam), Bethany Moreton (Dartmouth)

Friday, 15 September

Panel 2: Consumer Cultures
Chair: Alexander Sedlmaier (Bangor)

9.30 – 11.00 am
Lawrence Black (York): Handbooks of Conservatism
Amanda Eubanks Winkler (Syracuse): Andrew Lloyd Webber and Thatcherite Arts Policy

11.00 – 11.30 am
Tea and Coffee

11.30 am – 1.00 pm
Matthew Francis (Birmingham): ‘The Spiritual Ballast Which Maintains Responsible Citizenship’: Property, Private Enterprise, and Thatcher’s Nation

1.00 – 2.00 pm
Sandwich Lunch

Panel 3: Business Cultures
Chair: Jenny Pleinen (Augsburg)

2.00 – 4.00 pm
Bethany Ellen Morton (Dartmouth College): Between God and Wal-Mart
Bernhard Dietz (Washington, D.C.): From “New Class” to “Yuppies”: Managers and Conservatism in the USA, Great Britain and West Germany in the 1970s and 1980s

4.00 – 4.30 pm
Tea and Coffee
Panel 4: Countercultures

Chair: Anna von der Goltz (Washington, D.C.)

4.30 – 6.30 pm
Claudia Roesch (Münster): From Right to Life to Operation Rescue – The Re-shaping of Conservative Cultures through the Anti-Abortion Movement in the 1980s USA
Gisa Bauer (Bensheim): Evangelicalism in Western Europe and the USA in 1970s and 1980s

7.00 – 9.00 pm Conference Dinner in the GHIL’s Library

Saturday, 16 September

Panel 5: Cultures of Conservative Internationalism

Chair: Robert Saunders (London)

9.30 – 11.00 am
Peter Hoeres (Würzburg): Thatcherism and Reaganomics in Germany: The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and the Conservative Revolutions in the Anglosphere

11.00 – 11.30 am
Tea and Coffee

11.30 am – 1.00 pm
Sarah Majer (Potsdam): “Un anarchico conservatore”. Giuseppe Prezzolini and the Redefinition of Italian Conservatism in the 1970s
Johannes Großmann (Tübingen): Conservatism as a Lifestyle? Cross-Border Mobility, Transnational Sociability, and the Emergence of a Transatlantic Conservative Milieu since the Late 1960s

1.00 am – 1.30pm
Final Discussion

Chair: Martina Steber (Munich)