



This conference, a joint venture of the Schools of History and Language & Literature, is a highly interdisciplinary endeavour, bringing together scholars from the fields of history, Islamic studies, political science, sociology, media studies, law, anthropology, cultural studies, and American studies. Its goals are twofold: on the one hand, it seeks to explore how the United States figures in Middle Eastern conspiracy theories and vice versa; on the other, it aims to probe if and how concepts and methods developed in order to understand American conspiracy theories can be used to describe similar phenomena in the Middle East.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

FRIAS, Albertstraße 19

7.00pm OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

7.30pm **Mark Fenster** (University of Florida)
Comparative Governance and
Comparative Conspiracy Theories

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

Haus zur Lieben Hand,
Großer Saal, Löwenstraße 16

9.00am – 12.45pm **CONSPIRACY THEORIES:
GLOBAL AND LOCAL**

Chair: **Patrick Keller**
(Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Berlin)

Andrew McKenzie
(Forschungszentrum, Gotha)
The Transfer of Anti-Illuminati
Conspiracy Theories to the United States
in the Late 18th Century

Stephan Schmid
(American University of Beirut)
Hezbollah between Pan-Islamic
Ideology and Local Politics:
Conspiracy Theories as Medium of
Political Mobilization and Integration

10.30am – 11.00am: coffee break

Christopher Herbert
(University of Washington, Seattle)
The Society of Death and Anglo-
American Fears of Secret Organizations
in Gold Rush California, 1849-1858

Christoph Herzog
(Bamberg University)
Small and Large Scale Conspiracy
Theories and Their Problems:
An Example from Turkey

Conclusion by chair



2.30pm – 6.15pm **THE US AND
THE MIDDLE EAST**

Chair: **John Heathershaw**
(University of Exeter)

David Rose
(Goldsmiths College,
University of London)
The Other British Empire: Conspiracy
Theories in Iran and America

Shirin Fathi
(Hamburg University)
From Mosaddeq to HAARP:
Some Aspects of the Conspirational
Component of US-Iranian Relations

4.00pm – 4.30pm: coffee break

Aaron Winter
(University of Abertay, Dundee)
My Enemies Must Be Friends:
The American Extreme-Right,
Conspiracy Theory and the Middle East

André Sleiman
(L'École des Hautes Etudes en
Sciences Sociales, Paris)
“Zionising” the Middle East: Rumours
of the “Kissinger Plan” in Lebanon,
1973-1983

Conclusion by chair

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

Haus zur Lieben Hand,
Großer Saal, Löwenstraße 16

9.00am – EVERYDAY “KNOWLEDGE”
10.45am OF CONSPIRACY

Chair: **John Heathershaw**
(University of Exeter)

Türkay Salim Nefes
(University of Kent)
Political Parties’ Perceptions of Conspiracy
Theories: The Dönme Case in Turkey

Annika Rabo
(Stockholm University)
“It Has All Been Planned”:
Talking About Us and Powerful Others in
Contemporary Syria

Conclusion by chair

10.45am – 11.15am: coffee break

11.15am – CONSPIRACY
1.00pm IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Chair: **Patrick Keller**
(Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin)



Brian C. Johnsrud
(Stanford University)
“New Crusaders”: Historiography, the
Conspiratorial Crusade Novel,
and the Politicization of Crusade Rhetoric
after 9/11

Sebastian Herrmann
(Leipzig University)
Crude Theories? Larry Beinhart’s Novels
on the Bush Presidencies
as Narrativizations of the “Crisis of
Representation”

Conclusion by chair

2.00pm – THEORIZING CONSPIRACY
4.15pm THEORIES

Chair: **Michael Butter**

Alexander Dunst
(University of Nottingham)
Ordinary Paranoia: Rethinking
(American) Conspiracy Studies

Matthew Gray
(Australian National University, Canberra)
Western Theories about Conspiracy
Theories and the Middle Eastern Context:
The Scope and Limits of Explanatory
Transpositions

Birte Christ
(Gießen University)
“What kind of man are you?”:
The Gendered Foundations of U.S.
Conspiracism and Recent Conspiracy
Scholarship

Conclusion by chair

4.15pm – 4.45pm: coffee break

4.45pm – COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION
6.00pm

Chair: **Maurus Reinkowski**

Peter Knight (University of Manchester)
Reinhard Schulze (Bern University)

Organizers:
Michael Butter & Maurus Reinkowski
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CONSPIRACY THEORIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE UNITED STATES: A COMPARATIVE APPROACH JANUARY 13–15, 2011



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ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG
SCHOOL OF HISTORY / SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE & LITERATURE