**‘SARAJEVO 1914: SPARK AND IMPACT’**

An International Conference about the South Slav Question

**University of Southampton (UK), 26-28 June 2014**

**To register for the conference, follow this link:** [**http://www.southampton.ac.uk/greatwar\_unknownwar/conferences/conferenceinfo.page**](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/greatwar_unknownwar/conferences/conferenceinfo.page)

The murders in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were notoriously the ‘spark’ that lit up the Great War of 1914-1918. They were evidence of an unresolved ‘South Slav problem’ in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, of serious social tensions in the region, and of a Habsburg regime whose imperial mission was at odds with popular aspirations in the Balkans. The regional context in which the murders occurred remains controversial: some aspects have been well considered by historians over the past century but many are completely under-researched. Above all, there have been few attempts to think about the causes and repercussions of the South Slav problem in the interaction of its local, regional and international dimensions.

This **major two-day international conference** at the University of Southampton (England) aims, in contrast to most other conferences on the anniversary of 1914, to tackle this important theme. It brings together 23 historians from across Europe, including experts from Croatia, Serbia and Austria, to debate the subject from different angles. The conference also uses the Sarajevo murders as a focal point from which to branch out and consider the destabilizing impact on the Habsburg Empire and on Europe as a whole.

*On the one hand*, we will be analysing the long and short-term sources of unrest which produced the murders in Bosnia-Herzegovina: for example, Habsburg ‘colonial’ behaviour in the Balkans; the context of South Slav unrest (its Serb, Croat and Slovene ‘solutions’); social tensions in Bosnia; terrorist acts against Habsburg officials; the reputation of Archduke Franz Ferdinand; and Serbia’s role in the murders. *On the other hand*, we will consider the short and long-term impact of ‘Sarajevo’ with a focus on its regional context but also including wider echoes: the reaction to the Sarajevo murders among the Habsburg elite, in the provinces of Austria-Hungary, and among the other Great Powers of Europe; the emergency measures in Bosnia, including trials and executions, in the context of ‘total war’; and the commemoration and memory of Sarajevo in later decades.

**FULL PROGRAMME:**

***Thursday 26 June***

**2pm Opening:**

H.E. Dr Emil Brix (Ambassador of Austria to the UK)

**2.15**

**Key note lectures:**

Christopher Clark (Cambridge): ‘Did Sarajevo Matter?: 28 June and the Outbreak of the First World War’.

Lothar Höbelt (Vienna): ‘Why Fight a Third Balkan War? The “Habsburg Mindset” before 1914’.

**3.45 – tea/coffee**

**4.15 [-6.15]**

**Panel 1: The Stability of Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Tamara Scheer (Vienna): ‘A Pleasant Garrison without National Antagonism: Bosnia-Herzegovina on the Eve of the First World War through the eyes of Habsburg Officers’.

Robin Okey (Warwick): ‘*Mlada Bosna*: the Educational and Cultural Background’.

Mile Bjelajac (Belgrade): ‘Bosnian Youth and its Relationship to Serbia’.

**7pm – buffet supper**

***Friday 27 June***

**9am**

**Panel 2: Serbs and Croats as Friends or Enemies**

Heiner Grunert (Munich): ‘The Inner Enemy on the Outer Edge. Serbian-Orthodox Communities in Eastern Herzegovina 1913-1918’.

Iskra Iveljić (Zagreb): ‘The Croatian Aristocracy on the Eve of World War I’.

Stjepan Matković (Zagreb): ‘The Croatian Party of Right’s Attitude to the South Slav Question’

**11am – tea/coffee**

**11.15**

**Panel 3: Archduke Franz Ferdinand**

Alma Hannig (Bonn): ‘Belvedere: a *Nebenregierung* in Vienna? Franz Ferdinand and his Social Networks’.

Andrej Rahten (Ljubljana): ‘Great Expectations: the Habsburg Heir-Apparent and the Southern Slavs’.

Kristian Mennen (Muenster): ‘Franz Ferdinand and the Slovaks: An Unequal but Close Relationship’

**1.15 – lunch**

**2.15**

**Panel 4: Elite Perceptions and Decision-Making in 1914**

Dominic Lieven (Cambridge): ‘Russia and the Balkans in 1914: Time to Reconsider?’

Thomas Otte (East Anglia): ‘The July Crisis and the Limits of Crisis Management’.

Roy Bridge (Leeds): ‘Spark and Impact: the British Elite and the Sarajevo Assassinations’

**4.15 – tea/coffee**

**4.45 [-6.45]**

**Panel 5: The Military in the Balkans**

Guenther Kronenbitter (Augsburg): ‘Mixed Feelings: The Austro-Hungarian Military and the Southern Slavs’.

Danilo Sarenac (Belgrade): ‘Why did nobody control Apis?: Serbian Military Intelligence and the Sarajevo Assassinations’.

Jonathan Gumz (Birmingham): ‘International Legal Norms and the Habsburg Prosecution of War, 1914-15’.

**7.15pm – conference dinner**

***Saturday 28 June***

**9am**

**Panel 6: The Impact of Sarajevo**

Claire Morelon (Birmingham): ‘Between Loyalty and Indifference: Sarajevo and the Bohemian Lands’.

Mark Cornwall (Southampton): ‘Defining Traitors and Loyalists in 1914 Habsburg Croatia’.

Pavlina Bobič (Birmingham): ‘The Archduke in the Imagery of Slovenians 1914-1918’.

**11am – tea/coffee**

**11.15**

**Panel 7:The Aftermath in Memory**

Dagmar Hajkova (Prague): ‘Sarajevo in Czech Memory after the First World War’

John Paul Newman (Maynooth): ‘Princip’s Heirs: Legacies of Sarajevo and Young Bosnia in Inter-war Yugoslavia’.

Paul Miller (McDaniel): ‘“The First Shots of the First World War”: Remembering the Sarajevo Assassinations’.

**1.15 – Conclusions**

**1.30 – conference close**