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 Sösemann, 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

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


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 20th 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