



PROGRAMME

International workshop on

Counterfactual Thinking: “Parlour Game” or Analytical Tool?

28-29 November 2008
Centre for British Studies
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Berlin, Germany

FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2008

09.00 – 09.30 COFFEE

09.30 – 10.30 WELCOME **Christiane Eisenberg** (Humboldt University Berlin)

KEYNOTE **Neal Roese** (University of Illinois)
“The Psychology of Counterfactual Thinking”

10.30 – 10.45 COFFEE

10.45 – 12.15 PANEL ONE - THEORY

Chair: **Christiane Schildknecht** (University of Lucerne)

Roland Wenzlhuemer (University of Heidelberg)
“Counterfactual Thinking as an Analytical Tool: Benefits and Pitfalls”

Richard Ned Lebow (Dartmouth College)
“Forbidden Fruit: Counterfactuals and International Relations”

Yves Bossart (University of Lucerne)
“What is ceteris paribus?”

12.15 – 13.45 LUNCH

13.45 – 15.15 PANEL TWO – ECONOMICS & LAW

Chair: Gerhard Dannemann (Humboldt University Berlin)

Ekaterina Svetlova (Zeppelin University)

“Do I See What the Market Does Not See?": Counterfactual Thinking in Financial Markets"

Jens Ennen (Humboldt University Berlin)

“The Evaluation of Welfare State Performance: Modelling a Counterfactual World"

Helmut Weber (Humboldt University Berlin)

“The ‘But For’ Test and the Proximate Cause"

15.15 – 15.30 COFFEE

15.30 – 16.30 PANEL THREE - LITERATURE

Chair: Jürgen Schlaeger (Humboldt University Berlin)

Andrew Gross (Free University Berlin)

“It Can Happen Here: Real Anti-Semitism, Fake History, and Jewish American Memory"

Rayk Meckel (University of Lucerne)

“Criminal Counterfactuals. The Use of Counterfactual Thinking and Thought Experiments in Crime Fiction"

SATURDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2008

09.00 – 09.15 COFFEE

09.15 – 10.45 PANEL FOUR – CONSPIRACIES & FUTURISM

Chair: Roland Wenzlhuemer (University of Heidelberg)

Erwin Giedenbacher (American Reference Center, Vienna)

“The Virtual vs. the Counterfactual - History on the Internet"

Georg Schmid (Salzburg University)

“Counterfactuals and Futures Histories. Retrospective Imagining as an Auxiliary for the Scenarios of Expectance"

10.45 – 11.00 COFFEE

11.00 – 12.00 PANEL FIVE – KNOWLEDGE

Chair: Rayk Meckel (University of Lucerne)

Christiane Schildknecht (University of Lucerne)

"Facts or Fiction? Where Does Counterfactual Knowledge Belong -- and Why?"

Tobias Winnerling (University of Düsseldorf)

"Invented Formosa, the Empire of the Great Khan and Lilliput: Fact and Fiction of 18th-century Europe as Source or Tool for Historical Enquiry"

12.00 – 13.30 LUNCH

13.30 – 15.30 PANEL SIX – CASE STUDIES

Chair: Helmut Weber (Humboldt University Berlin)

Juliane Schiel (University of Zurich/Humboldt University Berlin)

"What If the Mongols Had Not Come?"

Elke Ohnacker (University of Konstanz)

"The Image of the 'Great Ruler' and the Succession to the Throne: What Would Have Happened to the Carolingian Empire If Charlemagne's Two Other Sons Had Survived?"

Ann Talbot (University of Bolton)

"Chance and Necessity in History: E.H. Carr and Leon Trotsky"

Sören Philipps (University of Hannover)

"The Birth of the European Union – Challenging the Myth of the "Civil Power"-Narrative"

15.30 – 16.00 CLOSING STATEMENTS

Rayk Meckel (University of Lucerne)

Roland Wenzlhuemer (University of Heidelberg)