

Organisation

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Registration and Zoom codes

Until September 17, 2021 by email to one of the organizers.



Picture Credits: Front: 1) a "Treason" banner from the Capitol attack, 2021; 2) "Treason!!!", John Bull explosively farts at a poster of George III, as an outraged William Pitt the Younger chastises him, 1798; 3) A Chinese propaganda poster titled "Fate of Hanjians" 1932; 4) Giotto, The Kiss of Judas, ca. 1305; 5) Scene from one of the Moscow trials, 1938; Back: 6) Hanging in effigy of the Leaders of Targowica Confederation, Warsaw, 1794; 7) Oleg Penkovskiy's passport, issued in 1960 for a trip to London; 8) Execution Ballad from the "Popish Plot", 1679; 9) Execution of Péter Zrínyi, Ferenc Nádasdy and Ferenc Frangepán, 1671. All pictures from Wikimedia commons.

Online international conference,
23-24 September

TREASON: A CONCEPTUAL AND COMPARATIVE HISTORY

'Treason' is a ubiquitous concept in human history, stretching from the ancient world through to the present day. While often thought of as an anachronistic term associated with past despotic governments, it is in fact very much alive in our contemporary world, not least through violent political rhetoric employed by populist leaders around the globe. It is also the ultimate political crime in any state, requiring always the most severe penalties due to the threat to the state community. Yet despite this importance, treason has been surprisingly ignored in the academic scholarship of any discipline. For some periods of history there are indeed some case studies, for others there are none; conceptual or theoretical studies are few.

This online international conference aims to bridge these gaps by aiming ambitiously to create a global history of treason across the centuries. Our themes cover the cultural representation of treason; treason in law; the practice and prosecution of the crime; and the impact and heritage of the subject. While our case studies hail from the ancient and modern eras and from all parts of the world, our purpose will be to make links and to assess 'treason' conceptually, teasing out the similarities or differences which have been created by a variety of regimes and political contexts.

Online-Conference of the University of Southampton and the
Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics"

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Conference Programme

Thursday, 23 September

09.00–09.30 | Welcome and introduction

André Krischer / Mark Cornwall

09.30–11.00 | Panel 1: Ancient History

Chair: Bernadette Descharmes, Braunschweig

Lycurgus and the Religious Dimension of Treason in Ancient Athens
Christoph Michels (Münster)

The Arbitrariness of Treason Accusations in Democratic Athens
Dorothea Rohde (Bielefeld)

Are there any Traitors («proditores») in Rome?
Cynthia Couhade-Beyneix (Bordeaux)

11.15–12.45 | Panel 2: Medieval history

Chair: Rémy Ambühl (Southampton)

The Concept of Treason in Einhard's Vita Karoli
Philipp Frey (Kiel)

Traditores in Tradition: Betrayal and Treason in late Medieval England
Matthias Büttner (Göttingen)

In League with Sultans. Discourses of Conspiracy and Treason in the later Middle Ages
Marcel Bubert (Münster)

12.45–13.45 | Lunch break

13.45–14.45 | Panel 3: Early modern history I

Chair: Tom Hamilton (Durham)

An Adulterate Coin? Coinage and Treason during the British Republic, 1649–1660
Christopher Whittell (Cambridge)

«Leur trahison & trop desloyalle felonnie». Concepts of Treason, State Building and Political Conflict in 16th and 17th Century France
Tilman Haug (Münster)

15.00–16.30 | Panel 4: Revolutionary periods

Chair: Beatrice de Graaf (Leiden)

The Enlightenment State and Treason: Britain and France in the Age of Revolution
Emma Macleod (Stirling) / Mike Rapport (Glasgow)

Treason and the American Revolution: Directions for Comparative Approaches
Carlton F. Larson (Davis, CA)

Targowica – an Evil Site of Polish Memory. The Role of Treason in Forging Identity
Artur Kula (Warsaw)

17.00 | Keynote talk: Treason and the Tower of London

Anthony Musson (London)

Friday, 24 September

09.00–10.30 | Panel 5: Early modern history II

Chair: André Krischer (Münster)

Early Modern Ballads about Executions for Treason
Una McIlvenna (Melbourne)

Betraying the King? The Hungarian-Croatian Aristocracy and their Treason against Emperor Leopold I (1670–1671)
Sabrina Rospert (Paris)

Walking the line in Ottoman Diplomacy: on Treason, Extravagance, and Confiscation in early modern Istanbul
Marloes Cornelissen (Istanbul)

10.45–12.15 | Panel 6: Fascism and Cold War

Chair: Malte Zierenberg (Berlin)

Treason as the cause of the fall of Fascism. 25 July and 8 September in Neo-fascist Rhetoric
Carlo de Nuzzo (Paris)

Cold War Home Fronts, Third Reich Legacies, and Building Democracy: Treason in Cold War West Germany
Sebastian Gehrig (Roehampton)

Technological Competition and the Reassessment of the Espionage Act in Early Cold War America
Mario Daniels (Amsterdam)

12.30–13.30 | Panel 7: Treason Trials in 1920s

Chair: Mark Cornwall (Southampton)

Treason and the rule of law: Reflections on the Irish Civil War 1922–23
Seán Enright (Dublin)

How Treason Makes the Traitor: Show Trials from Stalin's to Putin's Russia
Julie Cassiday (Williamstown)

13.30–14.15 | Lunch break

14.15–15.45 | Panel 8: Imperial transitions

Chair: Tanja Bühner (Bern)

Hanjian in the Qing Empire during the Opium War (1839–1842)
Gary Luk (Hong Kong)

Ottoman Arab Agents and the Collapse of Trust at the End of Empire
Chloe Bordewich (Harvard)

Treason as a political crime in late-imperial Russian Criminal Courts: the Lopuchin case
Lena Gautam (Wildau/Berlin)

16.00–17.30 | Panel 9: Treason and citizenship

Chair: Hanna Pulpanek (Münster)

Neither friend nor foe. A Political Theory of Treason and Democracy
Martin Oppelt (Munich)

The Politics of Liminality – Treason as a Site for the Formation of Stratified Citizenship
Hadas Cohen (Jerusalem)

Christianity and the Concept of Betrayal in Modern Hebrew Literature: The Case of Judas Iscariot
Yitzhak Mor (Jerusalem)

17.30 | Conclusions