

Conference Schedule

Day 1: Thursday, 24th of July

- 11:30 – 12:30 Registration and Welcome Buffet at Cripps Court, Magdalene College
- 12:30 – 12:45 *Welcome Remarks:* Prof Michael Goodman and Prof David Gioe
- 12:45 – 13:45 Keynote 1: *Why Hard Power Still Matters*

Lt. Gen. (ret) Doug Chalmers in conversation with Prof Brendan Simms

Chair: Prof Brendan Simms
- 13:45 – 14:45 Panel: *Erasing human history? The Security of Cultural Heritage*

Speakers: Dr Timothy Clack, Liv Siefert

Chair: Prof David Gioe
- 14:45 – 15:00 *Break*
- 15:00 – 16:15 Panel: *Disinformation, Deception, Free Speech, and our Digital Future*

Speakers: Carl Miller, Dina Hussein, and Dr Jill Kastner

Chair: Dr Louise Marie Hurel
- 16:15 – 16:45 *Refreshments*
- 16:45 – 17:45 Panel: *Russia's War Against Ukraine: Prospects for a Durable and Just Peace?*

Speakers: Prof Tracey German, Dr Patrick Bury, Sir Laurie Bristow

Chair: Dr Daniela Richterova
- 19:00 Drinks and Conference Dinner (19:30) at Downing College (INVITATION ONLY)



Conference Schedule

Day 2: Friday, 25th of July

09:00 – 09:30 *Refreshments and Welcome*

09:30 – 10:30 Panel: *South Asia: A Simmering Conflict Re-ignited?*

Speakers: Dr Paul McGarr, Tim Willasey-Wilsey

Chair: Keith Beaven

10:30– 11:00 *Refreshments*

11:00– 12:15 Panel: *China: Is Taiwan on Borrowed Time? What's Xi Thinking?*

Speakers: Dr Olivia Cheung, Angus Knowles-Cutler, Mark Logan

Chair: David Ludlow

12:15 – 13:15 *Lunch*

13:15 – 14:30 Keynote 2: *The Future of Intelligence*

Fireside Chat with Sir David Omand and John Taylor

Chair: Prof Michael Goodman

14:30 – 15:00 *Break*

15:00 – 16:00 Panel: *Intelligence Beyond Governments: The Role of the Private Sector*

Speakers: Dr Lewis Sage-Passant, Dr Nathalie Wlodarczyk

Chair: Dr David Oakley

16:00 – 17:00 Panel: *Regional Reverberations in the Middle East: Toward Resolution or Escalation?*

Speakers: Dr Renad Mansour, Dr Ahron Bregman, Dr Burcu Ozcelik

Chair: Dr Thomas Maguire

17:00 – 17:15 *Closing Remarks:* Prof David Gioe, Prof Michael Goodman

Speakers

Keith Beaven

Keith Beaven CMG is a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Department of War Studies, Kings College London. He served in the UK Foreign Office from 1983 until 2016, focusing on counter-terrorism from 2007 onward. He was Director Counter Terrorism from 2012-2016, sitting on the CONTEST board and managing overseas CT effort during a period of intense challenge in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. Since then he has provided advice on counter terrorism policy and national security issues on behalf of the UK government and the EU to a number of governments in Africa, the Caribbean and South Asia.

Dr Ahron Bregman

Ahron Bregman served in the Israeli army for six years. He took part in the 1982 Lebanon War and reached the rank of Major. He left the army after the war to work at the Knesset as a parliamentary assistant. Ahron studied in Jerusalem and London, completing a doctorate in War Studies at the Department of War Studies in 1994. He worked as a consultant / associate producer on two major BBC TV documentaries: The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs (1998) and Elusive Peace: Israel and the Arabs (2005).

Sir Laurie Bristow

Laurie Bristow was the UK Ambassador to Russia from 2016 to 2020. He was the UK's last Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2021, during the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Previous roles with the Foreign Office included Deputy Ambassador to Russia, Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Director for National Security. He has been President of Hughes Hall, Cambridge University since 2022.

Dr Patrick Bury

Dr Patrick Bury is a Reader (Senior Associate Professor) in Security at the PoLIS department, specialising in warfare and counter-terrorism. He has over 20 years' experience of working in the security sector as a practitioner, analyst and academic. A former British army Captain and NATO analyst, he has appeared regularly on multiple global media outlets. He is currently a UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellow examining transatlantic counter-terrorism evolution.

Lt Gen (ret) Doug Chalmers

Doug Chalmers became the Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge on 1 October 2021. He came to the College from Whitehall where, as a Lieutenant General, he had been the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Military Strategy and Operations) for the Ministry of Defence. An appointment that completed a period of Army service that began in 1984 when he enlisted as a Private Soldier in the infantry. Over those years he witnessed the end of the Cold War, the breakup of Yugoslavia, a UN mission in Cambodia, 9/11 and its aftermath, the rise and fall of ISIS and a pandemic.

In addition to serving as the Master of Emmanuel College, Doug holds the positions of Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and Chair of the Management Committee for the University's Centre for Geopolitics.

Dr Olivia Cheung

Dr Olivia Cheung is Lecturer in Politics at the Department of European & International Studies at King's College London, and China Fellow at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS), Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Her forthcoming book with Oxford University Press (co-authored with Steve Tsang) is on China's global strategy.

Dr Timothy Clack

Dr Timothy Clack is Associate Professor at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME), University of Oxford, UK. He is also an Associate Fellow of the British Army's Centre for Historical and Armed Conflict Research (CHACR). Timothy's research concerns the drivers and aftermaths of conflict, with current focus on areas such as identities, cultural destruction, information/ propaganda, and climate change.

Prof Tracey German

Tracey German is a Professor of Conflict and Security in the Defence Studies Department at King's College London. Her research focuses on Russian foreign and security policies, particularly Russia's use of force, as well as Russian strategic culture and military thought. Her latest book, *Russia and the Changing Character of Conflict*, was published by Cambria Press in 2023. She speaks Russian and has travelled extensively across the post-Soviet area.

Prof David Gioe

Professor David Gioe is a British Academy Global Professor of Intelligence and International Security in the Department of War Studies. He was formerly Associate Professor of History at the US Military Academy at West Point, where he also served as History Fellow for the Army Cyber Institute. David is Director of Studies for the Cambridge Security Initiative and co-convenor of its International Security and Intelligence program. Professor Gioe's national security career has spanned a quarter century of military and civilian intelligence service. He is a former CIA analyst and operations officer and a US Navy veteran.

Prof Michael Goodman

Michael S. Goodman, PhD, FRHistS, FAcSS, is Professor of 'Intelligence and International Affairs' and the Director of the King's Centre for the Study of Intelligence. He is a former Head of the Department of War Studies, King's College London. He is currently Visiting Professor at the Norwegian Intelligence School and at Sciences Po in Paris, and is a Senior Fellow at RAND. He has published widely in the field of intelligence history, sits on the Editorial Boards of all the main intelligence journals, and is series editor for 'Intelligence, Surveillance and Secret Warfare' for Edinburgh University Press. He has spent many years on secondment to the Cabinet

Office, where he has been the Official Historian of the Joint Intelligence Committee: Volume II will be published in 2026. He is a British army reservist and currently on secondment to the FCDO.

Dina Hussein

Ms Hussein works at the intersection of counterterrorism, digital policy, and threat disruption, currently heading Meta's Dangerous Organisations and Individuals (DOI) policy development work. She oversees expert partnerships, strategic network disruption, and Meta's engagement with the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), focusing on preventing the exploitation of digital platforms by violent and extremist actors. Her portfolio also includes advancing Meta's approach to emerging technologies, with a specific focus on understanding and assessing the threats and opportunities associated with AI use cases including misuse by threat actors and the integration of AI in security and moderation systems.

Ms Hussein brings deep expertise in understanding and mitigating the abuse of digital tools and platforms by violent extremist actors, developing strategies to pre-empt, detect and disrupt their operational and propaganda capabilities online. She has published on online radicalisation processes, counterterrorism policy, and counterinsurgency operations across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Her research has explored the evolution of extremist communications, tribal dynamics within terrorist groups, and the securitisation of civilian space in conflict-affected regions. Prior to joining Meta, she held roles with the United Nations, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Amnesty International, the Middle East Institute, and the United States Institute of Peace, among others.

Dr Jill Kastner

Jill Kastner is an independent scholar and former Visiting Research Fellow in the Security Studies Department at King's College London. She has written or broadcast for *Foreign Affairs*, *The Nation*, *History Today*, Monocle Radio, and Talk Radio Europe, among others. Her latest book is *A Measure Short of War: A Brief History of Great Power Subversion* (Oxford University Press, 2025), co-authored with William C. Wohlforth. She is currently working on another book, *Spies, Lies, and Sabotage: Fighting Back in the Digital Age*, as well as a study of El Salvador in the 1980s.

Angus Knowles-Cutler

Angus is a trustee of the Cambridge Security Initiative and served for six years as chairman of Deloitte's London offices. He is a Cambridge history graduate and also chaired Deloitte's China-Europe practice where he worked with a number of major Chinese clients and senior policymakers. He is now a writer and his debut spy novel, written under a pseudonym, was recently picked by The Times as its 'Thriller of the Month' – his current projects included a travel guide for spy buffs – TEN SPY CITIES.

David Ludlow

David Ludlow is a former diplomat and investment banker whose career has focused on Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Middle East. His diplomatic roles included serving in Moscow at the end of the Soviet era, and spending two years as a member of the international peace

negotiation team on the former Yugoslavia. After a switch in career paths, he advised a wide range of governments on privatisations and capital raising. He co-authored *British Foreign Policy after Brexit* (2017) and has recently become a trustee of the Cambridge Security Initiative.

Dr Thomas Maguire

Dr Thomas Maguire is an Assistant Professor of Intelligence and Security in the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University, and Visiting Fellow with the King's Intelligence and Security Group in the Department of War Studies, King's College London. Dr Maguire's research streams are two-fold. Firstly, he is interested in interactions between intelligence and propaganda in international politics, especially examining covert influence and intelligence disclosures as policy tools. This forms the basis for a recent article on intelligence disclosures during the Russia-Ukraine Crisis and a forthcoming book with Oxford University Press, *The Intelligence-Propaganda Nexus: British and American Covert Influence in Cold War Southeast Asia*. Secondly, Dr Maguire is interested in the politics and impacts of international security cooperation, in particular exploring post-colonial security relationships between states in Africa and Asia and the United Kingdom during the Cold War and the so-called Global War on Terror.

Dr Renad Mansour

Renad Mansour is a senior research fellow at Chatham House, where his research focuses on the political economy of state-building, conflict and development in the Middle East. In addition, he is a senior research fellow at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani. Previously, he was a lecturer in the international relations of the Middle East at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Renad is the co-author of *Once Upon a Time in Iraq* (BBC Books/Penguin, 2020), published to accompany the award-winning BBC documentary series.

Dr Paul McGarr

Paul McGarr works on intelligence in the War Studies Department at King's College London. He is the author of two monographs, *The Cold War in South Asia: Britain, the United States and the Indian Subcontinent, 1945-1965* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and *Spying in South Asia: Britain, the United States and India's Secret Cold War* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). The latter examines interventions made by the intelligence and security services of Britain and the United States in post-colonial India and their strategic, political, and socio-cultural impact in the subcontinent.

Carl Miller

Carl Miller is a journalist and technologist, who investigates hidden forms of power and control. He is the host of the podcast *Kill List*, which reached #1 in the UK, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, was named the Guardian's best podcast of 2024, Best Podcast 2025 by the Broadcast Press Guild Awards, and Best Serialised Podcast and Podcast of the Year by the True Crime Awards. He is the founder of The Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos, the information integrity lab CASM Technology and is Chief Strategy Officer at the DISARM

Foundation. Fun fact: he (with his co-authors) coined the word SOCMINT, 'social media intelligence'.

Dr David Oakley

Dr. David P. Oakley: Dave is the Academic Director at the University of South Florida's Global and National Security Institute. He served in the U.S. Army as a field artillery officer and strategist, in the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) National Clandestine Service/Directorate of Operations as a Staff Operations Officer (SOO), and as a contractor at the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center. His last assignment in the U.S. Army was as an assistant professor at the College of International Security Affairs. Prior to GNSI, he was an associate professor at the U.S. Special Operations Command's Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) in Tampa.

Sir David Omand

Sir David Omand, GCB, is Visiting Professor in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. His posts in British government service included UK Security and Intelligence Coordinator in the Cabinet Office, Permanent Secretary of the Home Office, Director of GCHQ and Deputy Undersecretary of State for Policy in MOD. He served for seven years on the JIC. He has authored several works on intelligence and security, notably *How Spies Think: Ten Lessons in Intelligence*, published in October 2020 and *How to Survive a Crisis* in 2023, both now Penguin paperbacks.

Dr Burcu Ozelik

Dr Burcu Ozelik is a Senior Research Fellow for Middle East Security within the International Security department at RUSI. With over 15 years' experience in geopolitical risk analysis, security and threat assessments, and strategic advisory in both the public and private sector, Burcu specialises in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean. Prior to joining RUSI, Burcu worked as an Associate Director at a London-based consultancy firm leading the MENA practice. She previously worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Burcu holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies and an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and subsequently held the Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the Department of Politics and International Studies where she taught Conflict, Peacebuilding, and the Politics of the Middle East. She has extensive experience with Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Israel.

Dr Daniela Richterova

Dr Daniela Richterova is Senior Lecturer in Intelligence Studies at the Department of War Studies, King's College London. Her research and teaching focus on Cold War intelligence history as well as contemporary issues related to state-based threats and counterterrorism. Dr Richterova has published in *International Affairs*, *The International History Review*, and *West European Politics*. Her research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, BBC, *Foreign Policy*, *The Times*, and in a number of documentaries. Her monograph *Watching the Jackals: Prague's Covert Liaisons with Cold War Terrorists and Revolutionaries* – which explores communist Czechoslovakia's relationship with violent Middle Eastern non-state actors, including the PLO and Carlos the Jackal – was published

by Georgetown University Press in January 2025. Dr Richterova is director of the MA in Intelligence and International Security and co-director of the King's Centre for the Study of Intelligence.

Dr Lewis Sage-Passant

Dr Lewis Sage-Passant is the Global Head of Intelligence at Novo Nordisk, one of the world's largest pharmaceuticals companies, where he advises the company on geopolitical and security risks, as well as leading efforts to combat economic and industrial espionage challenges. He has worked and living in the Middle East and Asia Pacific regions in a variety of geopolitical and security intelligence roles with major finance, technology, and energy firms. In his academic life, Lewis researches the field of intelligence and espionage with a focus on the private sector. Lewis holds a PhD from Loughborough University, where he is a Visiting Fellow in intelligence studies, and is an adjunct professor teaching intelligence at Sciences Po Paris. He has appeared in numerous media outlets, including the BBC, France24, CNBC, Harvard Business Review, The New Arab, El Mundo, GQ, and others, discussing intelligence, geopolitics, and security topics. He is the author of "Beyond States and Spies: The Security Intelligence Services of the Private Sector", which explores how corporations use intelligence to navigate and shape the world around them.

Prof Brendan Simms

Professor Brendan Simms is a Professor of the History of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge. Professor Simms lectures on the History of European Geopolitics and supervises MPhil and PhD theses for both POLIS and the Faculty of History, dealing primarily with German and British history in its international context and the history of humanitarian intervention.

John Taylor

John Taylor has over 30 years of experience working with the British Government, both in the UK and overseas. He is currently the CEO of JTIP, a company that provides training and advisory services to more than 50 intelligence and law enforcement agencies around the world. He is the author of five books, including his most recent publication, *Psychology of Spies and Spying*. In addition, he lectures at the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

John holds a BA (Hons) degree from Keele University and has completed the UK Government Senior Management Development Programme. He is also certified as a Hogan psychometric practitioner. In his recent work, John designed and led a team that delivered a new training programme for the Ukrainian military intelligence service. He also conducted an insider threat assessment for a major UK asset management company, which led to a significant reduction in insider-related incidents. He is a regular keynote speaker at events held by international organizations and FTSE 100 companies.

Dr Nathalie Włodarczyk

Over the past 20 years, Nathalie has worked with senior leaders across the private and public sectors to transform intelligence functions and integrate geopolitical intelligence into strategic decision-making. Prior to joining Gatehouse she was Vice President for Risk Intelligence Solutions at IHS Markit and S&P Global where she led strategy for country and geopolitical risk products and consulting solutions. She has also worked in an advisory capacity on geopolitical risk for global advisory firm StoneTurn, and as the Africa and consulting lead for political risk forecasting company Exclusive Analysis. In addition to her work for Gatehouse, Nathalie is a non-executive director at sustainability specialists Forster Communications. Nathalie has a PhD in War Studies from King's College London and an MSC and BSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

Tim Willasey-Wilsey

Tim Willasey-Wilsey CMG is an academic, author and historian. For 27 years he was a British diplomat who served on four continents. He is now Visiting Professor of War Studies at King's College London and a Senior Associate Fellow at RUSI. Tim writes extensively in the press and for think tanks, particularly on conflict in Asia and Ukraine. His latest book "The Spy and the Devil" tells the unknown story of MI6's top agent in Nazi Berlin during the 1930s/ It has been an Amazon best seller.

