



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

STATE-SPONSORED ASSASSINATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, HISTORY, AND LAW

16th-17th May 2023

Conference Programme

*Funded by the
Geo-Political Challenges Research Institute*

Conference Programme | Day One | Tuesday 16th May

09:00 **Arrival | Tea & Coffee | Registration**

09:30 **Welcome**

09:45 **Panel 1: Russia + Eastern Europe**

Kris Stoddart - Swansea University
'Russia, assassination, and hybrid warfare.'

Vasil Paraskevov - Konstantin Preslavsky University
"A Black Page in the History": Bulgarian State Security and the case of Boris Arsov, 1974.'

Christopher Nehring
'The Assassination of Georgi Markov' (Zoom)

Avramov Kiril - The University of Texas at Austin
'Crossing the "Red lines": Target Assessment and Typology of the Post-Soviet Targeted Retributions.'

11:00 **Tea & Coffee**

11:15 **Panel 2: Collusion, Deception, Cover-up**

Netanel (Nati) Flamer - Bar Ilan University
'Deception as a Tool for Assassination Operations: The Assassination of Yahiyah 'Ayyash (Hamas's Engineer) by Israel as a Case Study.' (Zoom)

Felix Shihundu (PhD candidate) - University of Ankara
'The Influence of Counterterrorism 'Collusion' in State Relations (Kenya and Somalia).' (Zoom)

James Worrall – Leeds University
'Between Deterrence and Deniability: Israeli Assassinations, Non- State Actors and 'Rules of the Game' in the Middle East.'

Conference Programme | Day One | Tuesday 16th May

12:30 Panel 3: Assassination and CBW

Richard Beedham – CBR division DSTL

'A review of methods used in historical examples of assassination, 1940-2011.'

Karl Dewey - IISS

'Russia's evolving use of poisons.'

Kathleen Vogel – Arizona State University / Glenn Cross – Crossbow Analytics

'CBW and assassination.'

Dan Kaszeta, RUSI

'Issues surrounding collection and exploitation of forensic evidence after an attack with such materials.'

13:45 Lunch

14:30 Panel 4: Assassination and the (Rule of) Law

Mindy Haas - University of Pittsburgh

'Assassination and Covert legal contestation.' (Zoom)

Adrian O'Connor - University of South Florida

'Legal lacunae and democratic norms: assassinations and open societies.'

Arturo Jimenez-Bacardi - University of South Florida

'Assassination, secret agreements, and collusion: Condor and US-Colombia.' (Zoom)

Martino Tognocchi and Micol Ferrario – University of Pavia

'Assassination and unlawful enemy combatants.' (Zoom)

15:45 Tea & Coffee

Conference Programme | Day One | Tuesday 16th May

16:15 Panel 5: Assassination, COIN, & the 'War on Drugs'

Victor Antonio Hernandez-Ojeda - Universidad Panamericana (Mexico City),
'Seen but not spoken, targeted assassinations during the War on Drugs in Mexico (2006-2023).'

Manuel Carranza – RUSI

'The Cold War and Political assassination in Mexico and Argentina.' (Zoom)

Enio Viterbo Martins - UC Institute for Legal Research

'The Role of State-Sponsored Assassinations in Regime Preservation: The Counter-Insurgency military doctrine in the Brazil's Military Dictatorship.' (Zoom)

Alex Waterman - German Institute for Global and Area Studies

'"Do what you do, we won't look:" Weaponised Factionalism and Counterinsurgency during the "Secret Killings" of Assam, India.'

17:30 Close

Conference Programme | Day Two | Wednesday 17th May

09:00 **Arrival | Tea & Coffee**

**Panel 6: Assassination and (Covert) Foreign Policy:
Regime Change, TK, and CT**

Mark Shanahan – University of Surrey

'How a radio station trumped assassination – or, when regimes fell, yet the proposed targets died of old age.'

Amelie Ferey – Institut Francais des Relations Internationales

'Targeted killing. A critique of weaponized liberalism.' (Zoom)

Folahanmi Aina

'Tango Down: Nigeria's Assassination Campaigns Against Boko Haram High Value Targets in the Lake Chad Basin Region.' (Zoom)

Dheeraj Paramesha – University of Hull

'National Character, Strategic Culture, and India's Approach to State Sponsored Assassinations.'

10:45 **Tea & Coffee**

11:00 **Panel 7: Assassination and its Aftermath**

Martin Brown – Richmond University

'The Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich: assessing the consequences.'

Sophie Duroy, KFG Berlin-Potsdam Research Group

'Assessing the Effects of State-Sponsored Assassinations on International Law.'

Adrian Hanni – Georgetown University

'Lethal Signaling: Exploring the communicative dimension of state-sponsored assassinations.'

12:00 **Lunch**

12:45 **Rountable 1: (Global) assassinations and covert operations**

13:45 **Rountable 2: Assassination & Technology**

14:00 **Tea & Coffee**

14:30 **Rountable 3: Assassination and its Aftermath**

15:15 **Closing Remarks**