



## PRE-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)  
*“1066 and British History”*

KEYNOTE

**Neal Roese** (UIUC):  
*tba.*

10.30 – 10.45 COFFEE

10.45 – 12.15 PANEL ONE - THEORY

Chair: Christiane Schildknecht (University of Lucerne)

**Roland Wenzlhuemer** (Humboldt University):

*“Counterfactual History: Of Contingency, Determinism and Path-Dependence”*

**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)

**Ekaterina Svetlova** (Zeppelin University)

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

**Jens Ennen** (Humboldt University)

*tba.*

**Helmut Weber** (Humboldt University)

*“The ‘But For’ Test and the Proximate Cause”*

15.15 – 15.30 COFFEE

15.30 – 17.00 PANEL THREE - LITERATURE

Chair: Jürgen Schlaeger (Humboldt University)

**Sandra Müller** (Humboldt University)

*"Forms and Functions of Counterfactual Thinking in Literature: Utopias and Dystopias"*

**Rayk Meckel** (University of Lucerne)

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

**Sigrid Schmid** (Salzburg University)

*"The Cold War Has Gotten Hot. Literary Models of Survival"*

#### **SATURDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2008**

09.00 – 09.15 COFFEE

09.15 – 10.45 PANEL FOUR – CONSPIRACIES & FUTURISM

Chair: Roland Wenzlhuemer (Humboldt University)

**Thomas Weber** (Humboldt University) (tbc)

*"Conspiracy Theories and Counterfactual Thinking as Adaptations to Cultural, Media Communicated Perception"*

**Erwin Giedenbacher** (Salzburg University)

*"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: tba.

**Juliane Schiel** (Humboldt University)

*“What If the Mongols Had Not Come?”*

(tbc)

**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** (Humboldt University)