



Power & Peril

Potentials and Limits of Intelligence

26. – 28. September 2025



In Cooperation with

Panel 7: Covert History

10.30 am **From Covert Action to Diplomacy:
The Emergence of a Hidden Field**
Stefanie Kirchweyer
Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan

**Leo Krzycki and the Legacy of Past
Intelligence Knowledge**
David Chambers
Washington, D.C.

Chair: *Samantha Newbery*

11.45 am **Closing Remarks**

12.00 pm **Lunch, End of Conference**

Conference organisers

Michael Mayer
Akademie für Politische Bildung
Thomas Wegener Friis
University of Southern Denmark, Odense

Michael Wala
Ruhr University Bochum
Shlomo Shpiro
Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan

Registration

Iryna Bielefeld
Tel.: +49 8158 256-53
i.bielefeld@apb-tutzing.de

We ask for your binding registration via the online form on the Academy's website by September 16, 2025 at the latest.



Click [here](#) to register or scan

Your registration is considered accepted when you receive a confirmation of participation from us. If you are unable to attend after registering, please let us know by September 18 at the latest, otherwise please note the cancellation fees on our website under Program/Current Conferences.

Conference fee

Including room and board €140
(reduced fee €80).
Including meals without room €90
(reduced fee €60).

We kindly ask you to pay the conference registration fee in cash in Euros or via a German debit card at the reception upon your arrival at the Academy. Please note we have no facilities for processing credit card payments.

Pupils, students, volunteers doing military service and federal voluntary service, trainees, unemployed persons and recipients of citizen's allowance/basic income support are entitled to a reduced fee (please indicate this when registering).

Meals

The Academy offers you vegan, vegetarian and non-vegetarian food. Please let us know in advance which kind of meal you prefer. In case of any food intolerances or allergies, we are happy to prepare a meal for you for an additional €10 per conference.

Road construction measures

The main street in Tutzing is currently under construction. This may cause delays in arrival and departure. Bus and taxi services between the Academy and the train station are also affected. Please consider this when planning your trip.

Sponsoring group (Förderkreis)

Our Sponsors' Association supports projects and acquisitions of the Academy that cannot be realized with funds from the public budget. The annual membership fee is €50. Members under the age of 30 pay a reduced fee of just €20. In addition, the Förderkreis pays the participation fee for Academy conferences three times a year for its under-30 members. The offer is only valid for private individuals and not in connection with events for a closed group of participants.

How to find us

Tutzing is located approximately 35 km southwest of Munich on Lake Starnberg (Starnberger See).

From Munich Central Station (Hauptbahnhof): Take the urban railway S6 (S-Bahn) or the regional train (RB) to Tutzing. At the train station in Tutzing, take the Bus 958 or 978 to "Klenzestraße". You will also find cabs at the front entrance of Tutzing train station. Please note our special offers for conference tickets through the Deutsche Bahn (DB) found on our website, see contact "[how to find us](#)".



From the airport take the urban railway S1 or S8 to Munich Central Station and follow the instructions above.

You can also reach the Academy by foot from Tutzing train station. It takes you 20 to 30 minutes.

To reach the Academy by car, take freeway A95 from Munich via A952 to Starnberg and continue on the federal highway until you pass the town of Traubing, then take a left. At the end of the road turn right to Tutzing. The Academy is on your left shortly after passing the town sign Tutzing.

Our guests are invited to use the charging points of the Academy for E-vehicles (cars, scooters, bikes) free of charge.



Akademie für Politische Bildung

Buchensee 1 · 82327 Tutzing
Tel.: +49 8158 256-0

www.apb-tutzing.de



INVITATION

In an age of digital surveillance, hybrid threats, and global intelligence cooperation, understanding the role of intelligence services is more essential than ever. Yet, the secrecy that surrounds them often keeps these powerful institutions out of public view – and beyond democratic scrutiny.

This conference invites scholars, students, and professionals to explore how intelligence agencies have shaped recent history and continue to influence our world today. From Cold War legacies to current espionage risks, the program spans a broad range of topics: landestime collaboration, counterterrorism strategies, intelligence oversight, and more.

Since the ‘Archival Revolution’ of the 1990s, intelligence history has emerged as a dynamic and rapidly growing field. Drawing on newly accessible sources, researchers now offer deeper insights into the inner workings of these secretive organizations.

Join us for an engaging exchange at the intersection of history, politics, and security – where past and present intelligence practices meet open scholarly debate.

Michael Mayer
Akademie für Politische Bildung

Shlomo Shpiro
Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan

FRIDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

2.00 pm Arrival, Coffee and Tea

3.00 pm **Welcome Address**
Michael Mayer
Shlomo Shpiro

Panel 1: Intelligence in Post-War Transition

3.15 pm **Chances, Limits and Rivalries. Czechoslovakian-Hungarian Intelligence Cooperation in Cold War Austria, 1948-1971**
Dieter Bacher
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute, Graz

Chair: Michael Mayer

Anglo-American Covert Operations in Albania, 1949–54: Cooperation and Competition with Yugoslavia
Steve Long
Xi’an Jiaotong University/Liverpool University

4.30 pm Break

Panel 2: Lessons to Be Learned

5.00 pm **A Practitioner’s Perspective on the Limits and Potential of Intelligence**
Russ Traver
Washington, D.C.

Chair: Anna Abelmann
Munich

Paying the Price: Turkish Intelligence in Libya and Foreign Policy Miscalculations
Tuğba Yürük Ekşioğlu
Ankara University

6.30 pm Dinner

7.30 pm **The German Services and the Challenge of Intelligence History**
Bodo Hechelhammer
University of Southern Denmark/BND

SATURDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

8.00 am Breakfast

9.00 am **Young Researchers Forum**

Forum A

The CIA and Kim Il-Sung: Hereditary Succession in Communist Politics
Nick Miller
University of Edinburgh

The Mossad and the Renewal of Israeli-Zaire Relations in the 1980s
Yuval Peleg
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Iran’s Intelligence Bureau and the West’s Anti-Communist Struggle
Saoud Al-Eshaq
Oxford University

Chair: Thomas Wegener Friis
University of Southern Denmark, Odense

Forum B

Guarding Democracy – The Surveillance of Far-Right Extremism by the Landesamt für Verfassungsschutz in West Berlin, 1951-1990
Katja Højgaard Petersen
University of Southern Denmark, Odense

Authoritarian Intelligence and the Erosion of Institutional Trust
David Shakarishvili
Klaipeda University

Overload and Uncertainty: Intelligence Decision-Making in the 21st Century
Ante Gugic
Dr. Franjo Tudjman Defense and Security University, Zagreb

Hezbollah on Trial: The Role of Yugoslav State Security
Luka Knez
University of Zadar

Chair: Charlotte Backerra
University of Klagenfurt

10.30 am Break

Panel 3: Intelligence Cooperation

11.00 am **Counter-Terrorism Across the Alps: The Hidden Story of the Club des Cinq**
Adrian Hänni
Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich

Optimizing Synergy in Intelligence Collaboration
Diana M. Popa
Red Sky 4, The Hague

International Intelligence Cooperation: A Neglected Field in Intelligence History
Wolfgang Krieger
University of Marburg

Chair: Dieter Bacher

12.30 pm Lunch

Panel 4: Human Intelligence Challenges

2.00 pm **The Human Factor: Using Terrorist Informers in Northern Ireland**
Samantha Newbery
University of Salford

Nicolas Bodington: Betrayer in the Special Operations Executive?
Paulett Pepin
University of New Haven

Chair: Shlomo Shpiro

3.30 pm Coffee Break

Panel 5: Intelligence in the Immediate Past

4.00 pm **History Repeating Itself? Ableiter and Ott in Comparison**
Paul Schliefssteiner
Austrian Center for Intelligence, Propaganda, and Security Studies, Graz

OSINT and the War in Ukraine
János Kemény
Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest

Russian Illegals and the Changing Technological Landscape
Omid Townsend
King’s College London

Chair: Gordan Akrap
Dr. Franjo Tudjman Defense and Security University, Zagreb

5.30 pm **IIHA Members Meeting**

6.30 pm Dinner

SUNDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2025

8.00 am Breakfast (Check-Out by 8.45 am)

Panel 6: Security and Intelligence

9.00 am **People’s Rights vs. National Security: Finnish Security Police in the 1920s**
Piia Vuorinen
Tiina Lintunen
University of Turku

German Intelligence and the Manhattan Project: A What-If Analysis
Florian Altenhöher
Berlin

Chair: Michael Wala
Ruhr University Bochum

10.15 am Break