



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF GERMAN POLITICS

ASGP Newsletter ***October 2005***

Message from the Chair

I am delighted to be sending this first message since my election as ASGP Chair back in April. I am very conscious of the confidence members placed in me at that election, and am proud to take up the challenge, together with an outstanding Executive Committee, of leading the Association over the next three years.

I do think the Association is at a critical juncture. We are in many ways very strongly placed, not least because of the success of our journal, *German Politics*, which is becoming an increasingly profitable asset. At the end of our current contract with Taylor and Francis (the successors to Frank Cass) we will be sole owners of the journal and able to exploit fully its market value as the best specialist outlet worldwide on German politics. Our editorial team are working hard to develop new strengths for the journal as we near that milestone.

But we also have to negotiate a shifting academic terrain, in which multidisciplinary area studies and single country specialisms in political science are no longer as highly valued in UK universities as they were even ten years ago. The result is a gradual decline in the size of the ASGP's potential constituency and therefore its membership.

This is not a problem limited to the UK; the situation is similar in the USA. For that reason the Association for some time now, under my predecessor Emil Kirchner, has been discussing whether cooperation with our US counterpart, the German Politics Association (formerly the Conference Group on German Politics) makes sense.

We were able to take those discussions further during the very successful 2005 Election Trip, in which a dozen US colleagues participated, making it our biggest election delegation ever (with around 40 in total attending briefings by the main parties, pollsters and the British Embassy – our thanks again go to the DAAD for its generous support). The results will be a membership drive, in cooperation with the GPA, to build US-based subscriptions to ASGP in 2006, and, I hope, a strong ASGP presence at GPA sessions in the conferences of the American Political Science Association (Pittsburgh, September 2006) and the German Studies Association (St Paul, October 2006).

A growing profile in the US will both maintain the vigour of the ASGP as a membership organisation, and also help *German Politics* embed itself further in the US journals market. Those two benefits from closer cooperation with the GPA should make the next three years exciting ones for the Association.

There is every prospect that the substance of Germany's politics will also be exciting as the new grand coalition under Chancellor Merkel evolves. Our Annual Conference – which will take place in May next year – will focus strongly on how the new government emerged from September's elections and on the likely trajectory of its policy programme. The Association Secretary, Charles Lees, will be circulating details shortly.

Finally I would like to end with a word of appreciation for Eva Kolinsky, a former ASGP Chair, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Eva was in many ways a pioneer: as a scholar on gender politics, new social movements and post-unification eastern Germany; and in breaking glass ceilings to establish herself and other women in leading roles in university scholarship and administration. She is sorely missed.

Professor Charlie Jeffery, University of Edinburgh



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12th of April 2005, University of Manchester

Minutes

(I) Present

Simon Green (SG); Alister Miskimmon (AM); Helge Jani (HJ); Matt Allen (MA); Carolyn Moore (CM); Simon Bulmer (SB); Monika Pruetzel-Thomas (MPT); Marianne Howarth (MH); Joanna McKay (JM); Matthew Ashton (MA); Geoffrey Roberts (GR); Katrin Auel (KA); Ruth Wittlinger (RW); Ross Campbell (RC); Claire Annesley (CA); Fabian Breuer (FB); Peter Pulzer (PP); Stephen Padgett (SP); Peter Humphreys (PH); Officers: Charlie Lees (CL); Dan Hough (DH); Emil Kirchner (EK: Chair)

(II) Apologies for absence

Charlie Jeffery; Graham Timmins; William Paterson

(III) Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as a true and accurate account

(IV) Matters arising

There were no matters arising

(V) Chair's Report

The Chair tabled a report, which was welcomed by the AGM. The Chair thanked CL, DH, and current and former officers of the Association for their support during his term of office. The Chair also thanked the APSA Conference Group for their positive attitude to the talks on enhanced co-operation with the ASGP. A motion by MH and SP to give the EC a mandate to continue with these negotiations was approved unanimously by the AGM. CL thanked EK for his fine work as Chair and presented him with a bottle of champagne on behalf of the Association.

(VI) Secretary's Report

The Secretary tabled a report, which was welcomed by the AGM. Debate centred on the ASGP conference. The AGM welcomed CL's proposal to look at alternative dates for the conference. CA pointed out that Association members required as early notification as possible of conference dates. GR suggested the inclusion of poster panels. SP spoke out in favour of the current 2-day format but felt that the choice of venue was important and suggested that the Association might meet more often in London. SP also suggested that the conference might benefit from greater practitioner involvement, especially from journalists. PP praised the conference and echoed SP's points. SB voiced the alternative view and expressed scepticism about the choice of London as a venue. It was agreed that the EC would keep the conference format and choice of venue under review.

(VII) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer tabled a report, which was welcomed by the AGM. DH was upbeat about the financial position of the Association and focused on the increased use of direct debit as a means of retaining members. The need to recruit and retain members was taken up in general discussion. JM observed that the ASGP has been working with a relatively old database and needs to update its information. SG suggested that the state of the membership could be calculated through analysis of income from subscriptions. SP and SB suggested that the Association might reconsider the kind of selective incentives offered to members. It was agreed that the EC would keep the issue of membership income and selective incentives under review.

(VIII) Graduate Network Co-ordinators report

MA gave a verbal report, which was welcomed by the AGM. He observed that attendance at the Graduate Conference was down but there were nevertheless a number of very interesting papers presented. DH requested that the Association note its thanks to MA and his colleagues for managing the Gradnet during a difficult period in terms of student involvement. In further discussion opinions were mixed regarding the future of the Gradnet. CA suggested that the Gradnet would benefit from an administrative assistant. SG suggested that if overall numbers and rates of participation did not improve, the Association might consider disbanding the Gradnet and consider other means of promoting the next generation of scholars through the ASGP's 'mainstream' structures, including the annual conference. No action was agreed at this point.

(IX) Constitutional Changes

SG tabled a number of constitutional changes to the Association's rules. These were welcomed by the AGM and passed unanimously.

(X) Editors' Report

The Editors tabled a report, which was welcomed by the AGM. SP spoke to the report and officially informed the AGM of the resignation of Charlie Jeffery from the editorial team. SP hoped that a replacement editor would be found within the next 4-6 weeks. In order to renew the editorial team's mandate, EK nominated the current team (minus CJ). This was seconded by SB and approved unanimously. SP thanked the AGM for this on behalf of the editorial team.

(XI) Conference

This item had already been discussed and was passed over.

(XII) Co-operation with other German Politics societies

This item had already been discussed and was passed over.

(XIII) Members subs

The current membership rates were approved by the AGM.

(XIV) AOB

There was no other business other than:

Elections to the EC

Nominations were MPT (proposed CA, seconded SP), CM (DH, SG), CA (MPT, SG), SG (JM, SP), GT (SG, CL), EK (SG, CA). All nominees were elected onto the EC.

Election of Chair

Nomination: CJ (SP, SG, MPT). CJ elected unanimously as new Chair of the Association.



THE ASGP GERMAN ELECTION VISIT, 14-19 SEPTEMBER 2005

By Ian King, London South Bank University

“Habe nun, ach! die SPD,
Die Schwarzen, Gelben, Grünen, Roten,
Den Botschaftsmann, die Demoskopen
Durchaus studiert, mit heißem Bemühen.
Da steh’ ich nun, ich armer Tor,
Und bin so klug als wie zuvor!...”

Since the ASGP Chair compared the alliance of the PDS and Lafontaine to a „Faustian Pact“, perhaps the slightly amended quotation from Goethe’s greatest work can serve as an introduction. In fairness, the writer was not the only “armer Tor”. The sweepstake to calculate the election result to the nearest 27 decimal places produced very few forecasts remotely adjacent to the (pre-Dresden) official result; even more significantly, the competition was won by someone who did not attend a single briefing and hence was not confused by any expert opinions. There is a worrying conclusion here, over which a veil is hastily drawn.

The visit began von the afternoon of 14 September at the Willy Brandt-Haus, with a briefing from young Felix Porket of the SPD’s International Department. After lifting the lid on campaign themes and tactics – a structure common to all the party briefings – he tackled questions from the party of 27 British and 14 American academics. Though at the time his optimism appeared a touch naïve, I was happy to concede in a brief chat on Sunday evening that, as Felix had said, there had indeed been everything to play for.

The group then proceeded to its first set of pollsters to see if Forsa knew the Destino (from Goethe to Verdi in some fell swoop – come on, keep up!) of the election. Manfred Güllner, Head of the Institute, took us through a series of graphs, statistics and pie-charts, explaining the changes in the electoral climate throughout 2005, the major campaign themes and the way the parties were shaping up. “Probably no overall majority for any coalition of big and small” proved a perceptive summary, and we were left with the implication that any party standing for “None of the Above” would have swept the board. Where are Poujade and Kilroy when you need them?

Thursday morning dawned bright and hopes at the Konrad Adenauer-Haus were high, though after Joachim Koschnicke had completed his briefing, he must have felt like retiring to a darkened room for the rest of the day. “Life is made up of interruptions”, as one of W.S.

Gilbert's heroes sighs, and he did not have to contend with one particularly inquisitive member of our group. In the circumstances it was a brave and enthusiastic presentation; though the idea of orange, the new CDU election colour of choice, being "modern, dynamic and positive" will come as news to anyone who has ever heard of Dr Ian Paisley. "Why do people want change, but don't expect you lot to do any better?" could not really be answered. "Nowt as queer as folk" would have sounded too like Publikumsbeschimpfung.

Since the Linkspartei was presenting itself with two leaders, it was appropriate that in the afternoon session they put up a two-man briefing team, Harald Pätzolt and Helmut Scholz. The birth of the new party was described in affecting detail, and its ability to exploit the political vacuum on the pro-welfare-state Left was (justifiably) asserted. Whether Oskar – the Mephisto in Charlie's Faustian Pact – is capable in the long run of working with any other politician on the planet remains a moot point, of particular interest to Gregor Gysi.



Angie and Gerd praying for divine intervention, one presumes ...

We then proceeded to the elegant residence of Hugh Mortimer, Deputy Head of the British Embassy, passing en route the square where Foreign Minister Rathenau was murdered by right-wing officers in June 1922. Whatever is said about gridlock and Reformstau, at least this sort of thing does not happen in today's Germany. Some important British journalists were in attendance. Chatham House rules of reporting apply, and the quality of the wine may in any case have dulled that of the memory, but the consensus was that, whatever the exact nature of the coalition, the next Chancellor was likely to be female rather than Hanoverian.

Friday's visit to the F.D.P. headquarters revealed a speaker wearing a bow-tie and looking every inch the archetypal yuppie. Helmut Metzner, Head of the Strategy and Campaigns Department, turned out to be much more informative than the stereotype might have suggested, and some of us began to sense that Guido the willing CDU assistant was going to do better than as leader of the Spaßpartei in 2002. Just *how* well, proved beyond us.

An afternoon visit to the Greens proved a particular highlight, as for the second election in a row we were addressed by Reinhard Bütikofer, now promoted from General Secretary to one of the party's joint leaders. We were grateful, if surprised, that anyone with such a crucial role to play found the time to address *us* rather than his potential voters. As ever, he was refreshingly direct on the questions of traffic light and red-red-green coalitions ("Damit kann ich nichts anfangen..."). The prospect of a "Schwampel" or "Jamaica Coalition" (that is, black, green and yellow) was beyond the imaginative powers of anyone present, though it surfaced on election night. I felt a little sorry for the Greens – forced into early elections without consultation, almost resigned to a probable role in opposition, yet with a series of successes on social and environmental issues which might be seen as putting their partner in the shade.

After a number of distinguished members had contrived to get lost on the way from Potsdamer Platz, we were received in the Lower Saxony Landesvertretung with coffee and cake, left over from a previous visit by the Association for Looking after War Graves. Our former Honorary President, Wolfgang Gibowski, Niedersachsen's man in Berlin, informed us that this particular war had been won by the CDU/CSU and FDP. Voters might prefer Schröder to Merkel, but

policies mattered much more than personalities, and in the key areas of job creation and general economic competence, the CDU enjoyed a huge lead. Two more pollsters – Yvonne Schroth of Gibowski’s former group, Forschungsgruppe Wahlen, and Viola Neu of the Adenauer-Stiftung – provided figures which underpinned this view. We were particularly pleased to receive an additional input from Max Kaase; to be in the same room as Kaase, Gibowski and Sam Barnes was to feel in the presence of history (Sunday was to prove that even history can be stumped by events though!). Of particular interest was the widely-held view that *none* of the big parties, certainly not the CDU, had had a good campaign, a view which may come back to kick Angela in the teeth. We were then revived with a splendid dinner and even better wine – a Gibowski speciality recalled with gratitude by those who had been present at the Baden Wine-tasting Evening seven years before.



SPD Candidate Eva Högl, who took time to see the ASGP party on Saturday morning

Saturday’s timetable contained only one event, a session with the election expert, Karl-Rudolf Korte, and the SPD candidate, Eva Högl. This was the first election where parties were threatening “die Wende zum Weniger”, in Korte’s words. The SPD had belatedly risked telling the truth and introducing cuts, and for that very reason it was likely to lose. Some anxiety was expressed by participants that dissatisfaction with the parties might spill over into a weakening of democracy itself, especially if the new government also failed to get the economy moving. Where to look for the next sign of hope?

This turned out to be a very relevant question at 6 pm on Sunday evening. At a stroke, election night turned from Merkel the Magnificent to Angela’s Ashes (I claim author’s rights on that phrase, by the way). A succession of glum-looking winners such as Stoiber the Stabber and Guido the Grandiloquent invaded the TV screens, followed by some far more cheerful losers (What had Gerd been drinking before the Elefantenrunde? Samples may be sent to me for inspection and probable consumption). As we shuttled from the Rheinland-Pfalz Landesvertretung – Nice to see Otto Schmuck again! – to the Bundespresseamt and finally the Willy Brandt-Haus, we tried desperately to work out who had won, and who could coalesce with whom. I am not sure if the idea of a penalty shoot-out between Angie and Gerd is the fairest way to decide the chancellorship, but there are worse methods.

Monday morning’s session with the pollsters proved a final highlight. As in Britain in 1992, they had got the result hopelessly wrong and initially appeared suitably chastened, though they soon brightened up and began burying the hatchet of bad forecasts in one another’s throats (“You got it more wrong than me, Jimmy!”). “Wäre es nicht Zeit, die Demoskopien lösten das Volk auf und wählten ein neues?” was the question we all wanted to ask, but did not, for fear that Messrs Köcher, Hilmar, Jung and Güllner would never let us darken their door again. And perhaps because we expect there could be another election well before 2009.

In conclusion, and with reference to the sweepstake:
It’s time to praise young Graham Timmins
Who walked away with all the winnins...

Conference Report

Early Elections in Germany: Where do We Stand?

A joint Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung / Institute for German Studies
conference

34 Belgrave Square, London, 12th July 2005

Early Elections in Germany: Where do we stand? This was the teaser posed by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung at a joint conference with the Institute for German Studies, University of Birmingham, on 12th July.

The analysis of the economic factors contributing to the early elections presented by Rebecca Harding of Deloitte Research and Werner Eichhorst of the Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, combined to paint a very forceful picture of the need for change in Germany, though a question mark remained as to the support for change amongst the electorate, and indeed, the forcefulness of the reform agenda in party manifestos. Whilst support for the vague notion of change was clearly felt amongst all sections of the economy, a lack of consensus on the scope of change was widely regarded as a stumbling block for all future coalition outcomes.

A similar vagueness was identified in the electorate on the eve of the election. Dieter Roth, a leading light of Forschungsgruppe Wahlen, pointed to the extreme voter volatility over the past 12 months in Germany. During this campaign, unemployment had been the key voter issue by a wide margin. Roth highlighted the fact that in recent federal elections, voter preferences increasingly tended to be settled only in the final weeks of the campaign, thus making it difficult to make any definite assessments of the likely post-election party landscape until the end phase and the final bursts of campaigning. Nevertheless, Roth's analysis underscored a general sentiment amongst German voters that change was a necessary outcome of the election.

Professor Thomas Poguntke, Director of the Institute for German Studies at the University of Birmingham, analysed the breakdown of the red-green coalition in government and presented a critique of the CDU as potential leaders. Poguntke's view was that the CDU remained fractured, a situation which was reflected clearly in their campaign strategy.

The final analysis of the day offered perspectives on the shape of Germany's foreign relations following the election. Siegmund Schmidt of the University of Landau presented an overview of the new potential leadership of Germany, highlighting strengths and weaknesses amongst the new players. William E. Paterson of the IGS, Birmingham assessed a CDU-led Germany's position within European political developments, drawing out aspects of both continuity and change in the post-election Germany's approach. By way of conclusion, Steve Crawshaw, London Director of "Human Rights Watch" and author of *Easier Fatherland: Germany and the Twenty-First Century* argued that the 68 generation was down, but certainly not out, and that their influence would certainly continue to shape politics in Germany after the election.

Many thanks are due to Dr. Ernst Hillebrand of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in London and Professor Thomas Poguntke at the IGS, Birmingham, for organizing a highly successful conference. A follow up conference on the election results and political implications is being held on 21 October (see below).

Call for Papers

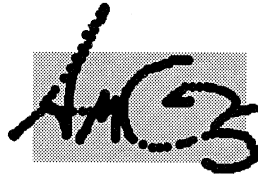
30th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association (GSA)

*The German Studies Association (GSA) will hold its
Thirtieth Annual Conference at the Pittsburgh Hilton,
Pennsylvania*

28th September – 1st October 2006

The Programme Committee cordially invites proposals on any aspect of German politics by 15th February 2006. We would be particularly interested to receive panel/paper proposals in the areas of foreign and security policy, Germany and the future of the EU and the future of the German party system. Proposals for entire sessions and for interdisciplinary presentations on any other aspect of German politics are also strongly encouraged. Individual paper proposals are also welcome. Kindly submit to Jonathan Olsen through the GSA website.

<http://www.g-s-a.org/conferences/2006/guidelines.asp>



ASSOCIATION for MODERN GERMAN STUDIES
Convenor: Dr Klaus-Dieter ROSSADE
Acting Secretary: Astrid Küllmann-Lee

**Die kulturelle Bedeutung von SPORT im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert
Sport and its cultural importance in 19th and 20th century Germany**

**A One-Day Conference to be held on Saturday, 29 April
at Birmingham University**

Call for Papers

The conference will take as its theme developments in SPORTS as documented in German film, including documentary film-making, literature and other cultural studies around the turn of the previous century, in Nazi Germany and post-war period. Proposals for papers of approximately twenty minutes in length are invited on any aspect of this topic.

The target audience for this conference is made up of both university and secondary school teachers, and papers on using Sports related material in a classroom context are particularly welcome.

Papers may be given in either English or German.

Outline proposals of approximately 250 words should be sent by 31st January 2006 to the organizers at the following address:

Astrid Küllmann-Lee
LSE Language Centre
Houghton Street
London
WC2A 2AE
a.t.kuellmann-lee@lse.ac.uk

Organisers: Peter Barker, Astrid Küllmann-Lee, Klaus-Dieter Rossade, Gabriela Steinke, Chris Young, e.a.

Call for Papers

Conference: “Views from Abroad. Die Aufarbeitung von Geschichte und Folgen der SED-Diktatur aus britischer Perspektive” (13-15 July 2006 University of Reading)

The conference is jointly organised by the Centre for East German Studies (CEGS) at the University of Reading, the Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur, Berlin and *Deutschland Archiv* (Bertelsmann Verlag), and is the result of an agreed programme of cooperation between the Stiftung and CEGS.

The aim of the conference is to bring together academics, journalists and writers from Great Britain and Ireland who are working on the history of the Soviet Zone in Germany, the German Democratic Republic, the division of Germany, as well as on the aftermath and consequences of the collapse of the GDR in 1990. About 20 German researchers on these topics will also take part in the conference, invited by the Stiftung. Participation without presenting a paper is also welcomed by those working in these areas who would be in a position to disseminate the results of the conference.

Offers of papers are requested from British and Irish participants on all aspects of political, historical and cultural developments in the SBZ, GDR and post-GDR. The only area not to be considered will be literary/cultural research of a purely theoretical nature, but contributions on literature, film and art in its political and social context are welcome. Contributions are also requested on archival sources in Britain, e.g. the Public Records Office.

Papers should not exceed 30 minutes in length and can be given in either English or German. Publication of selected papers is planned in a special issue of *Deutschland Archiv* by its publishers, the Bertelsmann Verlag. A further volume in an English publication is also envisaged.

The accommodation costs of British participants will be covered, and if the relevant financial support is granted it is hoped that it will also be possible to contribute towards travel costs.

Abstracts of about 200 words should be sent by **30 November 2005** to:

Dr Peter Barker,
Director of the Centre for East German Studies,
Department of German Studies,
The University of Reading,
PO Box 218,
Reading RG6 6AA
Email: p.j.barker@rdg.ac.uk

Arbeitskreis
Europäische
Integration
e.V.

Deutschlands Rolle in der Europäischen Union Jahreskolloquium des Arbeitskreises Europäische Integration e.V.

Mit freundlicher Unterstützung der Europäischen Kommission und
der Marga und Kurt Möllgard-Stiftung

Ort: Berlin, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP),
Ludwigkirchplatz 3-4

Deutschlands Rolle in der Europäischen Union

Die wissenschaftliche Tagung findet am 17./18. November 2005 in der
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Ludwigkirchplatz 3-4, 10719 Berlin statt.

Die Veranstalter übernehmen die Verpflegungskosten am Tagungsort. Die
Einschreibgebühr beträgt für Mitglieder des Arbeitskreises Euro 40,-, für
sonstige interessierte Teilnehmer Euro 60,- und für Studenten Euro 20,-.

Tagungsprogramm

Donnerstag, 17. November 2005

14:00

Deutschlands Rolle in der Europäischen Union

Einführung in das Thema

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Peter-Christian Müller-Graff, Universität Heidelberg

I. Grundfragen

14:15

Nach der Referenzsäure: Neue Deutsche Europapolitik in und nach der Denkpause über den Verfassungsvertrag?

Dr. Andreas Maurer, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin

Kommentar: Prof. Dr. Michael Kreile, Humboldt-Universität Berlin

15:15

Nach der Referendenzäsur: Neue Erwartungen anderer Staaten an die Rolle Deutschlands in Europa?

Mateusz Falkowski, Institute for Public Affairs, Warschau

16:15

Kaffeepause

16:30

Verfassungsvertragliche Perspektiven und Grundgesetz: Offenheit, Bedingungen und Grenzen der Beteiligung Deutschlands an Neuerungen der Europäischen Union

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Fastenrath, Universität Dresden

17:30

Die wirtschaftlichen Perspektiven: Eine vergleichende Analyse für Deutschland und Österreich innerhalb der erweiterten und harmonisierenden Europäischen Union und in der Weltwirtschaft

Prof. Dr. Fritz Breuss, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

II. Einzelfragen

18:30

Deutschland in der Finanzverfassung der EU: Steigende Netto-Belastung des Wachstumsschlusslichts?

Dr. Friedrich Heinemann, Universität Mannheim

20:00

Abendempfang

Freitag, 18. November 2005

9:00

Perspektiven des demographischen Profils von Deutschland im Vergleich: Auswirkungen auf die Europäische Union

Prof. Dr. Herwig Birg, Universität Bielefeld

10:00

Perspektiven der deutschen Sprache in der Europäischen Union

Dr. Katharina von Ruckteschell, Leiterin der Abteilung Sprache des Goethe-Instituts e.V., München

11:00

Kaffeepause

11:15

Import und Export von Rechtsdenken und Rechtspraxis: Die deutsche Rechtsordnung innerhalb der Europäischen Union

a. Privat- und Wirtschaftsrecht

PD Dr. Christoph Teichmann, Universität Heidelberg

b. Öffentliches Recht

PD Dr. Hans-Peter Folz, Universität Augsburg

13:00

Mittagsimbiss

14:00

Die Rolle von Bundestag und Bundesrat in der europäischen Rechtsetzung

Dr. Cordula Janowski, Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung, Bonn

15:00

Deutsche Föderalismuserfahrungen als Orientierungspunkte für die Zukunft der Europäische Union?

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Hrbek, Universität Tübingen

16:00

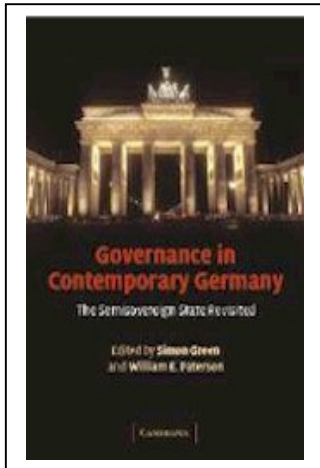
Ende der Tagung

For further information and registration forms please see
http://www.aei-ecsa.de/tagung_deutschland-eu.html



New Publications

Governance in Contemporary Germany. The Semisovereign State Revisited Simon Green and William E. Paterson (2005)



Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, West Germany was considered to be one of the world's most successful economic and political systems. In his seminal 1987 analysis of West Germany's 'semisovereign' system of governance, Peter Katzenstein attributed this success to a combination of a fragmented polity, consensus politics and incremental policy changes. However, unification in 1990 has both changed Germany's institutional configuration and created economic and social challenges on a huge scale. This volume therefore asks whether semisovereignty still exists in contemporary Germany and, crucially, whether it remains an asset in terms of addressing these challenges. By shadowing and building on the original study, an eminent team of British, German and American scholars analyses institutional changes and the resulting policy developments in key sectors, with Peter Katzenstein himself providing the conclusion. Together, the chapters provide a landmark assessment of the outcomes produced by one of the world's most important countries.

The Crisis of the German Left: The Collapse of Communism, The Global Economy and the Second Great Transformation Peter Thompson, University of Sheffield (2004)



Using Nietzsche's categories of monumentalist, antiquarian and critical history, the author examines the historical and theoretical contexts of the collapse of the GDR in 1989 and looks at the positive and negative legacies of the GDR for the PDS (the successor party to the East German Communists). He contends that the Stalinization of the GDR itself was the product not just of the Cold War but of a longer inter-systemic struggle between the competing primacies of politics and economics and that the end of the GDR has to be seen as a consequence of the global collapse of the social imperative under the pressure of the re-emergence of the market-state since the mid-1970s. The PDS is therefore stuck in dilemma in which any attempt to "arrive in the Federal Republic" (Brie) is criticized as a readiness to accept the dominance of the market over society whereas any attempt to prioritize social imperatives over the market is attacked as a form of unreconstructed Stalinism. The book offers some suggestions as to how to escape from this dilemma by returning to the critical rather than monumentalist and antiquarian traditions of the workers' movement.

Party Politics in Germany: A Comparative Politics Approach
Charles Lees, University of Sheffield (2005)



Party Politics in Germany is the only English-language study of its kind and examines the phenomenon of party politics in the Federal Republic through comparison across time and space. It draws upon new data from the 2002 Federal elections and recent Land elections, as well as on a far more explicitly comparative literature than is generally found in single-country studies. The book not only sheds new light on political phenomena in Germany but also allows students of the comparative method to apply some of the key concepts, models and approaches with which they are familiar to the rich context of a single country study.

ASGP Website

The New ASGP Website is now taking shape.

*Please make every effort to check out our home in
Cyberspace.*

<http://www.asgp.ac.uk>

*Please take a look at it if you can. It includes information
on new publications, the Graduate Network, conferences
and events and much more.*

*Any feedback to either Dan Hough
(d.t.hough@sussex.ac.uk) or Carolyn Moore (who is the
real brains behind this – carolyn.moore@gbf.com) would
be more than welcome.*

It is by no means the finished article, but it is a start.

It will only improve if we get:

- (1) feedback on how to improve it and*
- (2) info from you to put on it!*

Let us know what you think!