

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

***“SARAJEVO 1914 - SPARK AND IMPACT”***

**An international conference at the University of Southampton**

**26-28 June 2014**

The murders in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were notoriously the ‘spark’ that lit up the Great War of 1914-1918. They were evidence of an unresolved ‘Southern Slav problem’ in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, of serious social and ethnic tensions in the region, and of a Habsburg elite whose imperial mission seemed at odds with popular aspirations in the modernizing Balkans. The regional context in which the murders occurred remains controversial: some aspects have been well considered by historians over the past century but many are completely unresearched. The historiography is splintered, in line with the geographical splintering of the region that took place in 1918 and again in the 1990s. Above all, there have been few attempts to think about the causes and repercussions of the South Slav problem holistically: in the interaction of its local, regional and international dimensions.

This two-day conference at the University of Southampton aims, in contrast to most other conferences on the anniversary of 1914, to tackle this important theme by bringing together a range of international historians to debate it from different angles. The conference will use the Sarajevo murders as a focal point from which to branch out and consider the destabilizing impact on the region, on the Habsburg Empire, and on Europe.

*On the one hand*, we will be analysing the long and short-term sources of unrest which produced the murders in Bosnia-Herzegovina: for example, Habsburg ‘colonial’ behaviour in the Balkans; the wider context of South Slav unrest (its Serb, Croat and Slovene ‘solutions’); social tensions in Bosnia; terrorist acts against Habsburg officials; the reputation and the social network of Archduke Franz Ferdinand; Serbia’s role in the murders and the links to Bosnian Serb youth. *On the other hand*, we will consider the short and long-term impact of ‘Sarajevo’ with a focus on its regional context but also including wider echoes: the reaction to the Sarajevo murders among the Habsburg political and military elite, in the provinces of Austria-Hungary, and among the other Great Powers of Europe; the emergency measures in Bosnia, including trials and executions, in the context of ‘total war’; the commemoration and memory of Sarajevo in later decades; the impact on questions of South Slav unity (1914-1918).

We are seeking a number of extra papers to complement what is already a distinguished programme of speakers, which includes: Christopher Clark (Cambridge); Lothar Höbelt (Vienna); Roy Bridge (Leeds); Dominic Lieven (LSE); Iskra Iveljić (Zagreb); Robin Okey (Warwick); Mile Bjelajac (Belgrade); Andrej Rahten (Ljubljana).

Please send your proposal for a paper (an abstract of c.300 words) to Professor Mark Cornwall ([jmc3@soton.ac.uk](mailto:jmc3@soton.ac.uk)) by **1 August 2013**. Papers should be based on new research and should concern some aspect of the ‘South Slav problem’ or ‘Sarajevo’ in its regional or wider context as indicated above. Please also email if you want initial guidance on whether your proposed paper would fit well into the existing schedule. It is expected that a publication will result from the conference in the form of an edited book of the best papers.