



**BRITISH  
ACADEMY**

*for the humanities and social sciences*

# **Parliaments and minorities: ethnicities, nations and religions in Europe, 1848-1948**

**The British Academy 13-14 May 2014**

## **Convenors**

**Dr Paul Seaward, History of Parliament Trust  
Professor David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of  
Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London**

**Arranged in association with**



**PEARS INSTITUTE  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
ANTISEMITISM**



## **Tuesday, 13 May 2014**

9.00 Registration & refreshments

9.30 Welcome

9.40 **Session 1: The boundaries of citizenship: minorities and participation in political life**

Chair: Professor David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London

How have nations defined citizenship and the right to participate in national life, and how have they in theory and practice excluded those who fall outside those boundaries?

Professor John Breuilly, London School of Economics  
*State-modernisation, citizenship and nationality in nineteenth century Europe*

Professor Dieter Gosewinkel, WZB, Berlin Social Science Center  
*Citizenship as political belonging in the history of twentieth century Europe*

11.00 Refreshments

11.30 **Session 1 continued**

Professor Hillel Kieval, Washington University, St Louis  
*Citizenship and collective identity in a multi-ethnic state: the Jews of Austria-Hungary, 1867-1914*

Dr Monika Baar, University of Groningen  
*Historians, national minorities and citizenship in the long nineteenth century*

13.00 Lunch break

14.00 **Session 2: Managing minorities: constitutional models before and after Versailles**

Chair: Professor Miles Taylor, Institute of Historical Research

The session will examine different approaches to integrating minority communities in national political life, both before and after the Treaty of Versailles redrew the European map. It will review debates around individual rights and collective rights, federal and similar structures of parliamentary government.

Professor Eugenio Biagini, University of Cambridge  
*End of Empires - birth of modern democracies? The constitutional debate, 1910-1922*

Professor Stefanie Schüler Springorum, Technische Universität Berlin  
*"Easterners": minorities in the German Empire 1871 to 1914*

15.20 Refreshments

15.50 **Session 2 continued**

Professor Maud Mandel, Brown University  
*"Legislating Difference": outsiders and insiders in the late French Third Republic*

Dr Matthew Frank, University of Leeds  
*Exclusion and elimination: international forums and the European minorities problem in the 1940s*

17.40 Close of the first day

18.00 **Evening discussion panel: Nationalities and Parliaments now: what can we learn from the past?**

Chair: Professor David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the growth of nationalist and minority movements interacting with democratic political forces stretched to breaking point the rules and conventions of parliamentary systems. Today, a combination of economic crisis, stresses caused by refugee movements and economic migration, as well as a collapse in the perceived legitimacy of many political systems, is again testing the capacity of political institutions to cope. This discussion will explore how the fit between democratic institutions and national identities and aspirations is being challenged across Europe.

Professor Tim Bale, Queen Mary, University of London  
Professor Robert Hazell, University College, London  
Professor Simon Hix, London School of Economics  
Dr Gwendolyn Sasse, University of Oxford

19.30 Drinks reception

**Wednesday, 14 May 2014**

9.15           **Session 3: Political organisation**

Chair: Dr Philip Salmon, History of Parliament Trust

How did national, ethnic and religious minorities organise themselves in order to participate in national political life? How did they conceive of their aims – as integrative or separatist? Did such parties share the values and attitudes to political life of other non-minority based parties and politicians? How did they organise and appeal to their constituencies? How were they treated by the existing electoral culture? What role did democratic politics and grass-roots movements play? What was the dynamic between elite, and more working class, participants in these political structures?

Dr Scott Ury, Tel Aviv University

*Democracy and its discontents: the elections to the Russian State Duma and the politicization of ethnicity in Congress Poland, 1905-1907*

Dr Dejan Djokic, Goldsmith's, University of London

*Nations and parliaments in the Yugoslav lands, 1848-1948*

10.35           Refreshments

11.00           **Session 3 continued**

Professor Jean Garrigues, University of Orleans

*Protestants in French politics 1870-1914: between idealism and lobbyism*

Professor Rebecca Bennette, Middlebury College, Vermont

*The truest Germans of all: Catholics and political organization in the Kaiserreich*

12.30           Lunch break

13.30      **Session 4: The cultures of political and parliamentary life**

Chair: Dr Paul Seaward, History of Parliament Trust

How did those from ethnic, national and religious minorities approach and respond to the parliamentary and political culture they found within national parliaments? Were they easily assimilated, or did they remain very consciously separate? Their activities in obstructing progress within Parliaments

Karen Lauwers, University of Leiden / Dr Marnix Beyen, University of Antwerp

*Testing the limits of parliamentary courtesy: the use of Flemish/Dutch in the Belgian House of Representatives, 1888-1936*

Professor Lord Bew, Queen's University, Belfast

*Fierce ebullience: Irish politics at Westminster*

15.00      Refreshments

15.20      **Session 4 continued**

Professor András Gerő, Central European University

*Nationalities and the Hungarian Parliament (1867-1918)*

Dr Michael Koß, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

*When minorities are heard and when they are not: procedural change in the British House of Commons and in the Imperial German Reichstag.*

17.00      Close of conference