



IAS Octagon Small Grants Fund

APPLICATION FORM 2022-23

APPLICANT DETAILS REMOVED

Event Proposal

Proposed title of seminar 1 on 12th January, 2023: "Anglo-American Defence and Intelligence Cooperation in Outer Space."

Proposed title of seminar 2 on 16th January, 2023: "From Covert Action to the Church Committee: the CIA, the FBI, and the Anglo-North American Intelligence Relationship."

(Exact titles TBC later)

Date(s) of activity: 12th January, 2023 and 16th January, 2023

Proposed activity (e.g. overview of event, intended participants and audience):

I propose to hold two events relating to US Foreign Policy and Intelligence, as part of the Institute of the Americas US Foreign Policy and National Security Seminar series, that was established by me in 2019.

The first seminar features Dr Aaron Bateman, Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs at George Washington University in Washington D.C. In addition to this, he is a member of the Space Policy Institute within the Elliott School of International Affairs. The subject of the seminar will relate to new research conducted by Dr Bateman regarding the Anglo-American relationship relating to space defence, largely during the President Reagan and Margaret Thatcher governments, but also touching upon other aspects of the Anglo-American Cold war space defence relationship. Dr Bateman's work has been published widely in a number of academic journals, including *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, *Intelligence and National Security*, *The Oxford Handbook of Space Security*, *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, and *the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*. He also writes regularly for the organisations *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *War on the Rocks* and *Physics Today*. Dr Bateman has a forthcoming book which focuses on President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, and examines how differing opinions regarding the militarisation of space shaped U.S. foreign relations until the end of the Cold War

The second seminar will consist of a panel featuring three speakers: Professor Rory Cormac (University of Nottingham), Dr Steve Hewitt (University of Birmingham), and Dr Dafydd Townley (University of Portsmouth), who are all experts in intelligence and have published several books and articles in this area. Professor Cormac's research focuses on covert action and secret intelligence and the Royal Family and intelligence. His recently co-authored book (with Professor Richard Aldrich): *The Secret Royals: Spying and the Crown, from Victoria to Diana*, was the *Daily Mail* book of the Year, and the *Sunday Times* best-selling book of 2021. His most recent book, *How To Stage A Coup*, was published in June, 2022, to similar acclaim. His work has also featured in the Channel 4 historical documentaries: *Spying on the Royals* (2017), *D-Day: The King who Fooled Hitler* (2019) and *The Queen and the Coup* (2020).



Dr Steve Hewitt has published widely on the subject of Canadian, as well as US intelligence, and most recently, co-authored a book in 2018 titled: *Just watch us: RCMP surveillance of the women's liberation movement in Cold War Canada*. His work focuses on Canadian and US intelligence, with a specific focus on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the organisation's spying on Canadian universities, counter-terrorism, the threat to civil liberties from state and private surveillance, and is currently working on a project examining Canadian state surveillance of women's organisations from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Dr Dafydd Townley's research includes a focus on the influences on US national security policy, US intelligence, and the use of cybersecurity as a tool for diplomacy. His first monograph (based on his PhD thesis), is titled *The Year of Intelligence in the United States: Public Opinion, National Security, and the 1975 Church Committee* and was published in 2021. The book examines the role and impact of public opinion on national security policy, through the lens of the US congressional investigations into US intelligence agencies in the late 1970s.

The topic of this panel will cover US/Canadian intelligence during the Cold War and will draw together themes from the topics mentioned above.

This seminar series was established by me in 2019, with the support of Institute staff, and run together with a fellow PhD student. We ran four well-attended seminars between October 2019 and February 2020, with audiences of between 30 and 49 people, on the following topics: *The Changing Nature of US Warfare in the 21st century*, *The Evolution of US Hegemony from Obama to Trump*, *US Cold War Diplomacy in a Hostile Environment: From Indochina to Iran*, and *India-America Relations (1942-62): Rooted in the Liberal International Order*.

Further details of these events can be viewed here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/americas/events/2019/oct/us-foreign-policy-series-changing-nature-us-warfare-21st-century>

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/americas/events/2019/nov/evolution-us-hegemony-obama-trump>

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/americas/events/2020/jan/us-cold-war-diplomacy-hostile-environment-indochina-iran>

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/americas/events/2020/feb/india-america-relations-1942-62-rooted-liberal-international-order>

Further panels were organised on the basis of the successful prior events, which attracted large audiences, however these had to be cancelled due to UCU strikes and then the Covid pandemic. The seminar series will restart in-person events in 2023.

It is intended that the audience will attract a large number of the Institute and UCL students – particularly undergraduate and masters students, who study related modules in US Foreign Policy/International Relations, and National Security. However, the event will also be open to members of the public, thereby promoting public engagement and further understanding about these topics at a critical time, and will be advertised and promoted as such.

How is the activity interdisciplinary/ cross-departmental?

The speakers come from a range of departments in both the UK and US, which include history, political science and international relations, and Dr Bateman in addition to being an academic is a former intelligence practitioner, and was an intelligence officer in the United States Air Force. Additionally, the field of intelligence studies is in itself, inter-disciplinary and includes both historical and contemporary aspects.





How does the activity involve graduate students?

As explained above, this series was established by me in 2019, with the help and support of Institute staff. All of the previous events were organised and chaired by me or fellow PhD students. The current proposed panels have been organised by me, and I will also be chairing both events, as my PhD thesis is about US intelligence in the Cold War. As a female, mature, BAME student, my involvement in these events will also help to promote greater diversity in the academic study of this important topic in traditionally under-represented groups such as myself.

It is expected that these events will also promote engagement with UCL Masters and Undergraduate students, who study modules related to US Foreign Policy and national security, but also attract students from other London universities. As with the previous events that I ran in 2019-2020, many students, both from UCL and other institutions, attended these events, as well as members of the public.

How does the activity showcase A&H/SHS/SSEES research?

As a PhD student at the UCL Institute of the Americas, I will be chairing both panels and using them to inform and promote further discussion amongst students, staff and external visitors about my research field of intelligence studies, especially intelligence history. The Institute runs a Masters programme on International Relations of the Americas, which includes an element of intelligence studies.

How does the activity engage with staff and students at other institutions?

Both planned panels have speakers from other universities in the UK, and internationally from the United States. These panels are intended to help promote further discussion and engagement about US intelligence, defence, and foreign policy, and forge links with other academics that can showcase new research and promote scholarship. It is intended that both events will be recorded, and an audio podcast will be made available online after the event. This will enable students at UCL and other institutions, that aren't able to attend in-person, to benefit from the research that will be showcased during the seminars. These events will be open to the public and students and staff at other universities, and will be promoted online by the Institute and myself on social media, - e.g. Twitter and the department website, and will be promoted to other staff and students at universities in London and the surrounding area, who have the greater possibility of attending in-person.

Budget

- **Up to £1500 is available per application.**
- **Applications may either fully fund an event or be linked to other applications for outside funding.**

Expected no. of attendees 35 +	Expected total cost of event: Seminar 1: Approx. £150 – for post-seminar dinner Seminar 2: Approx £768.00 <u>Total cost: £918.00</u>	Amount requested from Octagon Small Grants Fund (up to £1500): £918.00
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Breakdown of likely costs (e.g., refreshments, room bookings, travel expenses):



Seminar 1:

Approx £50 a head for post-seminar dinner for speaker, and the two organisers: myself and a member of staff. (based on the approx. cost of a 3 course meal for each person + wine/drinks)

Cost: £50x3 = £150

(The speaker's travel from the US and accommodation will be self-funded)

Seminar 2:

Travel expenses: for train travel for speakers – prices for off-peak tickets, based on current online prices of train operators:

Return ticket from Nottingham to London: £121.50

Return ticket from: Birmingham to London: £62.10

Return ticket from Grantham to London: £74.40

Cost: £258.00

Post-seminar dinner for three speakers and two conference organisers: myself and a member of staff:

Approx £50 a head (based on the approx. cost of a 3 course meal for each person + wine/drinks)

Cost: £50x5= £250

Overnight accommodation for 2 speakers (one speaker does not require accommodation)

Approx £130 per person (based on average prices for the cost of a standard hotel room near UCL).

Cost: £260

Total cost of seminar 2: £768.00

Alternative sources of funding applied for/secured (including amounts):

The department has a PGR Events Fund, for which we may be awarded funding of up to £500, however we would like to fund these events via the IAS Octagon fund if possible. If further details regarding the Institute's funding policy are required, please contact the manager, Ruth Harper (email address below).

