



Message from the Chair

Professor Simon Green

It is with great sadness that the Association learned of the untimely passing in mid-February of Chris Allen of the University of Georgia after a protracted and courageous battle with cancer. Chris was an active member of the Association on both sides of the Atlantic and his presence and contribution will be sorely missed. Personal tributes to Chris by Joyce Mushaben and William Paterson appear later in this newsletter.

With Universities in the United States and the UK facing an increasingly challenging future, it is perhaps reassuring to know that our Association remains strong and focused. Indeed, we have two real and tangible successes to report over the past months: most of all, our journal *German Politics* has now been accepted for inclusion in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). This is a very significant step forward for the journal and its long-term strategy of raising its disciplinary profile and I would like to pay warm tribute both to the current editorial team under Thomas Saalfeld, the previous teams under Stephen Padgett who set the application process in motion and of course also Taylor and Francis as our publishers. Without their hard work and commitment, this would not have been possible.

Second, I am also pleased to report that both the Association's nominations to the expert panels for the UK's 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) have been accepted: Charlie Jeffery will be our representative on the Politics and International Studies sub-panel, and I will be serving on the Area Studies sub-panel. Given that we are a comparatively small organization representing a specialist field, this is an impressive result and shows that we continue to 'punch above our weight'.

In terms of conferences, we will be promoting our journal at the upcoming EU Studies Association (EUSA) conference in Boston this March. I can also confirm that our next US AGM will take place at the spring 2012 CES conference, which will be in Boston as well. In addition, this newsletter contains details of this year's annual UK conference and AGM, which will be held on 16-17 May 2011 at the German Embassy in London. We have a particularly impressive programme on offer, which is literally packed with interesting papers and rounded off by two top-notch keynote speakers in the form of Peter Hall and Yasemin Karakasoglu. And we have Adam Posen as dinner speaker as well! So I hope very much to see you there.

Finally, let me just offer a warm welcome to our two new Officers, Louise Davidson-Schmich and Michael Koss, who took over from Carolyn Rowe and Dan Hough at the beginning of the year. The transatlantic nature and ambition of the Association means that we do rely on individuals to give generously of their time in order to make things happen. I am delighted that both Louise and Michael have been willing to take on this responsibility at this important time in the Association's development and look forward to working with them for the remainder of my term of office.



In Memoriam: Chris Allen

Professor Joyce Mushaben

Chris Allen was my buddy, dating back to the early 1980s when we were both pretty low on the academic totem pole. We met at one of the first CES Conferences of Europeanists, which back then attracted a small enough crowd (less than 100 people) that we could attend nearly all of the panels. We all hung out together for 2-3 days as untenured assistant professors (Chris finished a little later), sharing dinners with Andy Markovits, Peter Lange and a few others who soon became “big names in the field.” We served on our first panel together at the Northeastern, on a very cold, dreary November night (a Friday, to boot) in Newark, New Jersey. The panel consisted of myself, Chris Allen, Jeremy Riemer and Andy Markovits – it was attended by Jer’s parents and one person who was actually an academic. Humble beginnings.

Chris remained a wryly humorous, affable and distinctively non-arrogant guy – despite his New England pedigree, his corporate experience, his high-powered grasp of complicate banking regulations, and his ongoing association with the Harvard Ginzberg Center. He knew how to take political pot-shots without ever offending; I doubt that he was even capable of being really angry with anyone, even when one colleague used us to advance his own career, then dumped us both about the same time. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of unification in 2000, we shared the stage at a conference sponsored by Alice Cooper at the University of Mississippi, where Chris commented on my unusually “conservative” attire (a lot of us had lost luggage on the way in) but ultimately identified with my logic: “the more radical my topic, the more toned down my appearance,” to lure conservatives into listening. Obviously shaped by his early experiences in the worlds of Business School and Big Oil, Chris was always the consummate, well-heeled gentleman; indeed, I only remember seeing him in something other than a suit and tie twice in my life. But appearances, as we know, can be deceiving: Chris had strong leftist, social justice streak under his courtly, political economy veneer. Worlds apart as far as our research topics were concerned, we were *ein Herz, eine Seele* in terms of our proclivity to appreciate efforts Germans were making in our respective policy fields, even as we critiqued the way they went about it.



Over the years (gulp, decades), I had the pleasure of interacting more or less regularly with Chris through the Conference Group on German Politics (US-predecessor to the IASGP), the German Studies Association, the Council of European Studies, and the AICGS (he was a resident scholar the year before I arrived). We shared relationship stories, taxis, dinners, election trips, and in the end we even shared cancer stories (mine as the affected spouse). In this age of Internet, e-mail and cell-phones – not to mention Facebook, texting, twittering, tweeting and lots of other things I don’t know how to use – it may be hard for readers to imagine what it was like to try to find intellectual soul-mates at random conferences, where one usually had little clue as to who was even on the program before arriving in a strange city. That is why our association was originally named the Conference Group on German Politics –there was at least one panel at major meetings (ISA, APSA) where German experts could exchange cards and associate names with faces. Then you had to pay a dollar to take home a copy of that colleague’s paper; “in those days” we had all to schlepp 50 xeroxed copies of our own papers to the meeting as a registration requirement, further enriching the association (but not the airlines via baggage charges).

Although our discussions were intermittent, limited by the number of conferences we could actually attend in a year, we formed bonds in the early 1980s; I dare say we felt like we were part of a special cohort (even if I was the only “girl” in the group back then), as the field of European Studies, in general, and German politics, in particular, moved into high gear: *Zoom, zoom*, as the car commercials now say. My sense of loss goes much deeper than knowing that my buddy, Chris Allen is gone; that part won’t really hit me until the next conference. My sadness is compounded by the realization that “we” helped, in our humble way, to build an entire field of intellectual endeavor -- one that has since been taken over by newfangled technologies, hyper-complicated methodologies, extreme specialization, often abstruse “theorization” and increasing professional dismissal of the scholars who were so proud to call themselves “country specialists.” My heart goes out to Kathy, whom I never met but feel like I know after 30 years of conversations with her partner. Chris Allen was, in the most positive sense of the term, a real *Mensch*. I will miss not only the man, but all of the things he stood for: his love for Germany, for the profession (rather than “the career”) and his personal loyalty toward those of us who shared his formative experiences.



In Memoriam: Chris Allen

Professor William Paterson

Chris Allen who died on February 14th aged 63 was a person of quite extraordinary qualities who enriched the lives of his family, academic friends, colleagues and students. Like a number of others who came to academic life relatively late he was totally committed to academic values. In a world where careerism and envy are never wholly absent, Chris was a beacon of integrity and collegiality like one of the lighthouses that illuminate the coast of his home state of Maine.

Chris was a major scholar in the field of comparative political economy with a particular focus on Germany. His contributions always combined a deep knowledge of Germany, an immersion in the relevant theoretical literature and a consistent fair mindedness. What was especially distinctive about him however was his readiness to share his knowledge in a wholly unselfish manner. I first encountered Chris in the 1980's when I was working with Wyn Grant on a project on the chemicals sector. This was a new area for me and I was immensely grateful for the help Chris gave me and the friendly way in which he did it. This desire to share his knowledge is also reflected in the truly amazing number of conference papers he gave and the breadth of the topics he tackled. A more calculating scholar would have focused on a narrower area and pursued a journal led strategy. To the enormous benefit of the German politics community Chris marched to the beat of a different drum. He was always motivated by intellectual curiosity and a fascination with Germany.

All of Chris's intellectual and human qualities came together in his teaching vocation. Here the responses of Chris's students at the University of Georgia tell a deeply moving and inspiring story. His death provoked an outpouring of testimonies on the website at the Athens Banner-Herald to the effect that he had had on their intellectual and personal development. Diana Pauksta, a former student sums up the response for me when she wrote „He had such a profound effect on so many people because he truly loved what he did, and despite his packed schedule he made time for all of us.“ In 2008 his unique teaching gifts were recognised by the award for outstanding teaching in Political Science by the American Political Science Association.

In his extended battle with cancer, Chris displayed the lion hearted but down played courage of the 19th century Yankee sailing captains to whom he bore a physical resemblance. In a letter written to friends in the early spring of 2010 when he had just learnt the devastating news that he had developed lung cancer alongside his pre existing cancer of the larynx, Chris concluded. „So we do as well as we can as long as we can and try to enjoy the ride.“

No one has ever better lived up to that philosophy than our dear, dear friend Chris.

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German Politics Editors' Report: *German Politics* in the Social Sciences Citation Index

Thomas Saalfeld, Managing Editor, *German Politics*

German Politics has now been accepted for coverage by Thomson Reuters in their Social Sciences Citation Index and Journal Citation Reports. Coverage will eventually go back to Volume 17 (2008). This is simply excellent news. In the 20 years since it has been founded by Eva Kolinsky, William E. Paterson and Gordon Smith, the Association's journal has established itself as the leading peer-reviewed academic journal in the field of German politics.

The inclusion in the Social Sciences Citation Index has involved a considerable amount of work both amongst the editorial teams in place since the foundation of the journal and on the part of our publishers, Routledge. It comes at a crucial time for at least three reasons: Firstly, the market in academic journals is getting more competitive. The more journals are being established, the more each individual journal needs to establish and retain its visibility and distinctiveness. Secondly, institutional subscriptions for academic journals have experienced very high rates of inflation (this includes the various electronic 'bundles' offered by publishers), putting a great deal of pressure on library budgets. As library budgets are getting tighter, more specialized journals, including those for the inevitably small number of area specialists, are often vulnerable. Thirdly, the academic job market in North America, Europe and elsewhere is getting more competitive with institutions pressing for publications in journals that are included in the major citation indexes.

Inclusion in the Social Sciences Citation Index is a necessary condition for *German Politics* to remain a successful player in the journals market and become even more attractive for potential authors. The current editorial team (Dan Hough, Wade Jacoby, Stephen Padgett, Thomas Poguntke and Thomas Saalfeld) will continue to work hard with a view to maintain and develop the journal's reputation as a major outlet for high quality empirical research on Germany, which speaks to both the scholarly community in German and European studies and to the wider political science community with comparative interests.

Announcement of Interest



The Political Studies Association (PSA) has a German Politics Specialist Group

GPSG works within the PSA to promote the study of the government, politics, foreign relations, economy, political thought and contemporary history of Germany. GPSG provides a forum for discussion and debate for German specialists at all stages of their academic career. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary research and the participation of early career researchers.

- View GPSG's **website** for news of our annual workshop and special events:
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/psa.specialistgroups/GPSG/>
- Are you a **postgraduate student or early career** researcher? GPSG's Early Careers Research Officer, Hartwig Pautz, is working on initiatives to help you integrate into the German studies research community. Contact Hartwig Hartwig.pautz@arcor.de
- In association with the School of Government and International Affairs at Durham University, GPSG supports the postgraduate **journal** *Austausch*: a biannual peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, online journal for German Studies. *Austausch* provides postgraduates and early career researchers with a platform for peer-reviewed publications and opportunities to establish an academic network, encouraging exchange between students, scholars, and institutions with a shared interest in German Studies. A workshop on the theme of 'Germany in the 21st Century' will be held at Durham University in late June 2011, with a view to publishing the papers in *Austausch* Issue 2, Autumn 2011. Expressions of interest to the editors, please editor.austausch@googlemail.com.
- Would you like to **join** GPSG and receive our **newsletters**? Please email Patricia Hogwood P.Hogwood@westminster.ac.uk to join our mailing list.

Recent and forthcoming publications by IASGP members



Out of the East: From PDS to Left Party in Unified Germany *David F. Patton*

(Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2011)

What happened to the ruling communist party of East Germany after the collapse of the Berlin Wall? *Out of the East* describes the party's metamorphosis after its fall from power. Over the last twenty years it has transformed many times, from the Socialist Unity Party to the Party of Democratic Socialism to, finally, the successful Left Party. David F. Patton makes sense of these transitions, and reveals how a pariah party managed to survive and thrive in democracy.

For more details and to purchase the book, go to
<http://www.sunypress.edu/p-5088-out-of-the-east.aspx>

Recent and forthcoming publications by IASGP members



The Politics of Party Funding State Funding to Political Parties and Party Competition in Western Europe *Michael Koß, University of Potsdam*

- Major new analysis of increasingly influential political arrangement
- Offers a new approach to understanding party funding regimes
- Empirically rich and conceptually rigorous study

Recently there has been a convergence of party funding regimes across many states of Western Europe. The driving force behind this process has been the introduction of state funding to political parties. This book subsequently asks why state funding to political parties has been introduced in ever more countries and yet there still remain some places where it has only been introduced to a decidedly limited degree? It argues that a consensus of the relevant parties is a prerequisite for the introduction of state funding, thereby assuming a nexus between particular forms of party competition and the outcome of party funding reforms.

The author shows how the introduction of state funding is more likely to occur in countries where parties have a high number of institutional veto points at their disposal, where both policy- and office-seeking play a more important role in parties' strategic preferences than vote-seeking, and where the discourse on political corruption identifies state funding as a remedy against corrupt practices. These assumptions are confirmed for four cases: Germany, Sweden, the UK, and France. He argues that two constellations of independent variables facilitate the introduction or reform of state subsidies.

On the one hand, in political systems that provide parties with a considerable number of veto points, vote-seeking generally plays a minor role in decisions about party funding. On the other hand parties can reach a consensus independently of the institutional environment and their strategic preferences by engaging in the discourse on political corruption.

Decreasing levels of ideological polarisation prior to the introduction of state funding imply that causal mechanisms similar to the ones identified in the four case studies are at work in established democracies in Western Europe more generally. Thus, the book represents a first step towards a theory which explains differences and similarities in party funding regimes.

November 2010 | 288 pages | 978-0-19-957275-5 | Order on-line at Online – at www.oup.com

Recent and forthcoming publications by IASGP members

What's The Deal With Deutschland? The European Consequences of Changes in Germany's Political Economy

Conference organized by Mark Blyth and Abraham Newman with the assistance of the Center for German and European Studies and the Mortara Center for International Studies. An online seminar organized and edited by Henry Farrell appears here: <http://crookedtimber.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/germany.pdf>

Contributions include:

- Abraham Newman - What Are The Germans Doing?
- Richard Deeg - Too Fast and Too Furious
- Mark Blyth - The End Game for the Euro
- Aaron Boesenecker - Connecting Past and Present
- Mark Vail - Keynesianism By Stealth
- Matthias Matthijs - Not Just a German Problem
- Wade Jacoby - Germany: Europe's Company Store
- Henry Farrell - "One of the Fingers on the Button Will be German"
- Sheri Berman - Germany: The Necessary But Not Sufficient Nation?
- Tobias Schulze-Cleven - Discovering the Limits of Ordnungspolitik

Upcoming Conferences



Institute for German and International Political Party Law and Research

Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium “Independent local lists as alternative to political parties?” April 8-9, 2011

Our conference deals with the *Freie Wählervereinigungen* (Independent Local Lists), a subject which, so far, has not received sufficient scholarly attention. *Freie Wählervereinigungen*, however, have been a crucial part of politics on the local level ever since the beginning of the Federal Republic of Germany. On average, they account for 10 % of municipal council members; in Baden-Württemberg, where they are most strongly rooted, they even account for 47.6 %. Thus, regional strongholds are clearly detectable: Apart from Southern Germany, *Freie Wählervereinigungen* find their strongest base of support in the former East German states. A possibly trend-setting step has been undertaken by the “Freie Wähler” in Bavaria in 2008, who won seats in the Federal State Parliament, receiving 10.2 % of the vote. While their political involvement on the State level offers them new opportunities for the shaping of the political landscape, it may also jeopardize the unique qualities of the *Freie Wählervereinigungen*: the image of being particularly close to citizens’ local and everyday concerns, and the reputation for non-ideological and non-partisan politics. In addition, serious legal questions may arise as a result of this widening of the political scope.

The conference aims at promoting this, until now, only scarcely noticed phenomenon as subject of scholarly discussion. Particular attention will be paid to (1.) the conditions for success, (2.) the performances, and (3.) the future prospects of the *Freie Wählervereinigungen*.

1. Since the success of *Freie Wählervereinigungen* differs from one region to another, variables such as the structure and size of the municipality or the local electoral law will be discussed.
2. Truthful to their “anti-party-sentiment”, *Freie Wählervereinigungen* are strongly trying to prevent being regarded as political parties. However, the question remains if they might not nevertheless perform the same functions – which would have major implications for their legal status.
3. Finally, the conference shall explore the future of the *Freie Wählervereinigungen*: How likely are the prospects that they will, in the long run, successfully compete with the traditional parties at all electoral levels?

It seems obvious that no single discipline provides all the insights necessary to answer the questions outlined above. Therefore, an interdisciplinary approach, especially between political science and law, seems most appropriate. Since local independent lists have also prospered in other European democracies, some international examples will be included in order to widen the scope of discussion and to abstract from the specifics of the German case.

Please see the brochure sent with this newsletter for more details about this symposium.



37th Annual Conference

**Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study
of German Politics (IASGP)**

**German House, German Embassy 34 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8BZ London
16 – 17 May 2011**

Conference details also available at: <http://www.iasgp.org>

MONDAY 16TH MAY

Registration and Coffee **10.15 – 10.45**

Welcome from the IASGP Chair **10.45 – 11.00**

Panel 1: The *Superwahljahr* **11.00 – 2.30**

Chair: tba

- 1) Ossip Fürnberg (GESIS Mannheim): Torn Germans The reasons for split ticket voting and its implications for the next Bundeswahlgesetz
- 2) Thorsten Faas, Johannes N. Blumenberg (Mannheim): Stuttgart 21 and the Baden-Württemberg state election 2011: Emotions, Attitudes, and Results
- 3) Annika Werner (WZB): Policy Representation and Elections in Germany: Does Close Congruence Pay?
- 4) Harald Pätzolt, Cornelia Hildebrandt (Die Linke/Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation): How stable and flexible is the German party system in times of crises? The 2011 Landtagswahlen

Lunch **12.30 – 13.30**

Panel 2: Security policy **13.30 – 15.00**

Chair: tba

- 1) Mathias Bug & Jasmin Röllgen (Bundeswehr University Munich): Internal Security in the UK and Germany – Similar Approaches, Different Outcomes
- 2) Yoola Kim (ZEI Bonn): Change and continuity of German security policy: Evolution of German military participation abroad
- 3) Nicholas Wright (East Anglia): Accidental leader? Germany and the CFSP

Coffee 15.00 – 15.30

Panel 3: Parliamentarism 15.30 – 17.15

Chair: Dan Hough (Sussex)

- 1) Michael Koß (Potsdam): Where do parliaments go? A new and integrated framework for analysing parliamentary change
- 2) Julia Fleischer (Speyer): Administering the Floor: Comparing parliamentary staffs in Germany and UK from an organisation theory perspective
- 3) Karsten Mause (Bremen): Moonlighting MPs
- 4) Markus Lorenz (Chemnitz): The German Parliamentary Commissioner as Role Model – More Parliamentary Scrutiny Through an Additional Player?

The German Politics Lecture 17.15 – 18.30

Chair: tba

Peter Hall (Harvard University): From Economic Crisis to Eurocrisis and Beyond: The Challenges for Germany

Discussant: Lord Wood of Anfield

IASGP Reception 18.30 – 19.30

sponsored by



20.00 onwards

ANNUAL DINNER

Pantechnicon

10 Motcomb Street

London SW1X 8LA

Speaker: Dr Adam Posen (Bank of England / Peterson Institute of International Economics)

TUESDAY 17TH MAY**Panel 4: The Party still ain't over****09.00 – 10.30**

Chair: tba

- 1) Simon Green & Ed Turner (Aston): The CDU and party organisational change
- 2) Charles Lees (Sheffield): Agents of Statecraft: the role of German political parties in the Stabilisation and Accession Process in South-East Europe
- 3) Nico Bechter, Matthias Falter & Elisabeth Kuebler (University of Vienna): Strache's new Freedom Party: Ideological realignment or maximising voter turnout?

Coffee**10.30 – 10.45****Keynote Speaker****10.45 – 12.00**

Yasemin Karakasoglu (Bremen): Anmerkungen zum deutsche Integrationsdiskurs. Entwicklungen und Tendenzen in Wissenschaft und Politik (Chair: Simon Green, Aston)

Lunch**12.00 – 13.00****Panel 5: Economic Policy****13.00 – 14.45**

Chair: tba

- 1) Thomas Paster (Postdoc MPI Cologne): Economic Interests or Political Constraints: Why Did German Employers Accept Social Reforms?
- 2) Lothar Funk (Düsseldorf): Secrets of Germany's Unexpected Jobs Miracle: A blueprint for lagging countries?
- 3) Rainer Hillebrandt (IGS Birmingham): Climate protection, energy security and the role of competitiveness in Germany
- 4) Martin Behrens (Hanns-Boeckler Foundation) & Wade Jacoby (Birmingham Young University): The Role of Unions in Partisan Politics: the Impact of the Public Sector

Coffee**14.45 – 15.15****Panel 6: Immigration & Identity****15.15 – 16.45**

Chair: tba

- 1) Patricia Hogwood (Westminster): Externalising Germany's immigration policy: from the European Neighbourhood Policy to the Eastern Partnership
- 2) Peter O'Brien (Trinity, San Antonio): Nationalism and Transnationalism in the Politics of Immigration in Europe: the Failure of Liberal Universalism
- 3) Sadiqa Riazat (Bangor): Germany's relationship to the 3 October and 9 November as political Gedenk- and Feiertage from 1990-2010

Participants depart (except for members of the IASGP executive attending the)

Annual General Meeting**16.45 – 17.30**



37th Annual Conference

German House, German Embassy 34 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8BZ London

16 – 17 May 2011

All participants (speakers and non-speakers) must be a member of the Association. If you are not a member then please add the appropriate fee below.

Bookings received after 15th April 2011 will be subject to a £40 late booking fee

All registrations are binding

Please return this form (no matter how you intend to pay!) to

Michael Koß

Professur „Politik und Regieren in Deutschland und Europa“

Universität Potsdam

Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät

August-Bebel-Str. 89

D-14482 Potsdam

Name:	
Affiliation:	
Address:	
Tel:	
E-mail:	
Dietary/Other Requirements:	
Payment Method (please delete as appropriate)	(1) Electronic Payment (2) Pay at registration (i.e. on 16 May) Only for US-based members for whom transferring money causes serious problems!
Signature and Date	

Category	Price	Tick as appropriate
STANDARD MEMBER Conference rate (16/17 May 2010, includes registration fee, two lunches, refreshments and reception)	£100.00	
GRADUATE/RETIRED MEMBER Conference rate (16/17 May 2010, includes registration fee, two lunches, refreshments and reception)	£70.00	
ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER (nearby at the Pantechicon (http://www.thepantechicon.com/)).	£40.00	
Non-members – please add membership fee; Full rate £30.00 / Postgraduates - £7.50	£30/£7.50	
Total Payable		

There are two ways to pay your fee

OPTION 1: ONLINE

For those with UK and European bank accounts, you're encouraged to transfer the funds electronically. The Association's bank account details are:

****IMPORTANT**** Please put your name in the 'subject' section so that we know who the money is coming from!

Account holder's name: International Association for the Study of German Politics (IASGP)

Intra-UK transfers:

Sort code: 089299

Account number: 65308242

European/overseas transfers:

BIC: CPBK GB22

IBAN: GB07 CPBK 0892 9965 3082 42

Bank branch details:

Co-operative Bank

P.O. Box 250

Delf House

Southway

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

OPTION 2: ON THE SPOT

If you are unable to do either of the above (i.e. because of problems with transferring money into our UK bank account), then we are willing to accept payment on the day. We will, however, invoice conference participants who have stated that they wish to pay in this way and yet do not show up.

All enquiries should be addressed to Michael Koß at mkoss@uni-potsdam.de

HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

London has a plethora of hotels to suit more or less every price range. In previous years participants at IASGP conferences have used the Diplomat Hotel in Belgravia (two or three underground stops away from the conference venue). The rates are seen as generally being quite competitive. The address of the Diplomat is;

The Diplomat Hotel
2 Chesham Street
Belgravia SW1X 8DT
London
England

<http://www.thediplomahotel.co.uk>

Alternatives are the Premier Inn at Victoria (15 mins walk from the venue (<http://www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/LKEBAR/london-victoria>), the Central House Hotel (37-41 Belgrave Road, Victoria, SW1V 2BB, tel: + 44 (0) 20 7834 8036, info@centralhousehotel.co.uk) or the Knightsbridge Green Hotel (159 Knightsbridge, Knightsbridge, London. SW1X 7PD, tel: +44 (0) 207 584 6274, reservations@knightsbridgegreenhotel.com). Generally, www.hotels-london.co.uk or www.hotelconnect.co.uk seem to be decent places to look for hotels.

TRAVEL

London now has five (!) airports from which one can get into the centre of the city (relatively) easily; Heathrow, Gatwick, London City, (London) Stansted and (London) Luton. *Heathrow* has the best array of international flights, and the conference venue (in Belgravia) is easily accessible either via the high speed train link to London Paddington or via the Piccadilly Line (underground). The train link to Paddington is quick (15 minutes), but pricey. You'll also have to take the tube from Paddington to Hyde Park Corner or hop in a cab. The underground connection from Heathrow is direct although it takes longer (45 minutes). It is, however, much cheaper.

Gatwick, despite its distance from central London (it's about 30 miles north of Brighton), will also enable you to get to the conference speedily. You can either take the Gatwick Express to Victoria or the slower 'Southern' service (also direct to Victoria). The Gatwick Express takes 20 minutes, but is expensive. The 'Southern' service takes longer (30-40 minutes) but can be considerably cheaper. Check on www.thetrainline.com for more details. Hyde Park Corner is two stops on the underground (Victoria and District lines) from Victoria. The conference venue (34 Belgravia Square) is also within comfortable walking distance from Victoria (approx. 10minutes).

London City airport is to be found in the east end of the city, and has a number of city hopper connections to other parts of the UK as well as to selected European cities. The easiest link from City is via the 'London City Airport' station on Docklands Light Railway to 'Bank' underground station (20-25 minutes). Then change to the central line and to the Piccadilly line at Holborn. Step out at Hyde Park Corner (25 mins).

London Luton is well served by value (code for cheap) airlines such as EasyJet and Flybe. Train connections from Luton Airport Parkway to St Pancras take 30-45 minutes (depending on connection). St Pancras is an underground journey away from Hyde Park Corner (changing at Green Park). There are also a couple of bus links from outside the terminal at Luton into central London; Green Line's service (bus 757) takes 90 minutes. There's also an 'Easybus' service for those who've flown EasyJet direct to Victoria bus station (90 minutes, although allow longer) that will be cheaper.

London Stansted is one of Ryan Air's key hubs, and carriers such as Air Berlin and GermanWings also fly there frequently. There is an (alleged) high speed train link into Liverpool Street (45-55 minutes). There are also two decent bus links with National (journey time 90 minutes, although again allow longer), or 'Terravision' (same journey time). Both go direct to Victoria coach station.