

May 2000

Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure to write this note so shortly after the 2000 Annual Conference. Held in London at the German Historical Institute, the Conference focused on the theme: 'Germany and Eastern Europe' All the feedback I have had suggests the papers presented were of a particularly high standard (see the full conference report inside). The Conference was also especially memorable for a number of reasons. First, we were able to mark the end of Dr Wolfgang Gibowski's period of office as Honorary President of the Association with some well-chosen words by ASGP *Altvorsitzender* Willie Paterson, and a large case of wine well-chosen by ASGP Secretary Simon Green (those of you who attended the 1998 Elections Visit will understand why!). Dr Gibowski has been an outstanding Honorary President, regularly contributing his excellent analysis of German politics to our events, but also opening doors for us where he could in Bonn. We remain very grateful to him and look forward to seeing him at our conferences in the future. His successor as Honorary President is Professor Wolfgang Streeck - who spoke at the 25th Anniversary Conference last year - and we very much look forward to working with him in the coming years.

We also bade farewell to Dr Sebastian Fohrbeck, Head of the London Office of DAAD, who has been promoted to run the DAAD's North American and West European activities from the DAAD headquarters in Bonn. The DAAD's support to the Association over the years has been both generous and vital in helping us build up our programmes and profile. Dr Fohrbeck has maintained this tradition in difficult budgetary circumstances with efficiency and humour. In this context it was excellent that so many Association members were able to attend the DAAD's 75th Anniversary reception - and simultaneously Dr Fohrbeck's 'farewell appearance' - to show their appreciation of the DAAD's support and to welcome the new head of the London Office, Nina Lemmens.

Our other special guest at the Conference was Gisela Stuart, MP for Birmingham Edgbaston and, we suspect, the first Bavarian member of the House of Commons. Her speech at the Annual Dinner was a model of its kind and showed how much organisations like the Association are valued as a genuine and enduring contribution to strengthening British-German relations.

We also heard at the Conference how the Association's activities are developing in new directions: closer links with the German studies community in the USA, a new annual Postgraduate Prize (see further details inside this Newsletter) to support the work of the Graduate Network, a review of our presence on the world-wide web, and a number of new ideas on adding to our publications portfolio which the Treasurer, Graham Timmins, is exploring. There was also the excellent news that Professor Ken Dyson has joined the editorial team of *German Politics*, replacing Eva Kolinsky who had served with distinction from the launch of the journal.

Charlie Jeffery
University of Birmingham

Association for the Study of German Politics

Annual General Meeting

German Historical Institute, 28 April 2000

Present:

Claire Annesley

Vanessa Beck

David Broughton

Kenneth Dyson

Simon Green (Secretary)

Beatrice Harper

Dan Hough

Marianne Howarth

Charlie Jeffery (Chair)

Peter Johnson

Ian King

Emil Kirchner

Gerd Knischewski

Charles Lees

Jocelyn Mawdsley

Helen Miller

Stephen Padgett

William Paterson

Mark Peggs

Monika Prützel-Thomas

Graham Timmins (Treasurer)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Karl Koch, Peter James, Geoff Roberts, Peter Pulzer, Richard Luther and Klaus Goetz.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

These were distributed in the November 1999 newsletter and were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Chair's Report

Prof. Jeffery thanked Dr Timmins and Dr Green for their work as the Association's Officers over the past year, as well as Astrid Küllmann-Lee, Dr Beatrice Harper and Prof. Marianne Howarth for their excellent work with the newsletter. He then reported that the Executive had met in February, rather than at the AGM, which had enabled it to consider the various matters on the agenda more fully. As a result, he felt that such separate executive meetings should form a regular part of the ASGP's timetable, usually to be held in December.

His written report was structured into the following headings:

a) Annual Conference 2000

The annual conference was on the theme of Germany and Eastern Europe and was held at the German Historical Institute, which was an excellent venue. The conference was supported by the DAAD, and the Association made a presentation to the outgoing head of the London office, Dr Sebastian Fohrbeck. A number of long-standing ASGP friends spoke at the conference, including Prof. Roland Sturm and Wolfgang Gibowski, the retiring ASGP honorary president. The German Politics lecture was delivered by Prof. Hanns Maull.

b) RAE 2001

Prof. Jeffery reported that he had continued the correspondence with funding councils and relevant 'Units of Assessment' which Karl Koch had instigated during his term of office as Chair of the Association. At the AGM, there was a special panel on the RAE, at which the chairs of both the European Studies (Prof. Kenneth Dyson) and German and Scandinavian Languages (Prof. John Flood) 'Units of Assessment' were present. The chair of the Politics and International Studies panel, Prof. Albert Weale, was not able to attend.

b) Widening Institutional Cooperation

Prof. Jeffery reported on his work in establishing institutional links, in particular to the German Studies Association (GSA), but also to the American Political Science Association (APSA). He suggested that the ASGP should become a corporate member of the GSA (cost: \$100 p.a.), which would allow the Association to run named panels at GSA conferences. Prof. Jeffery also announced his intention to explore a reciprocal subscriptions arrangement with *German Politics and Society*.

c) ASGP and the Web

Prof. Jeffery thanked Stuart Philip for establishing such a strong ASGP presence on the internet and reported that a working party, chaired by Dr Green and consisting of Prof. Marianne Howarth, Vanessa Beck, Claire Annesley and Dan Hough, had been established to consider further developments in this area. He noted that additional financial investment might be necessary to upgrade the ASGP web presence.

d) Graduates

Prof. Jeffery praised the work of the Graduate Network and thanked its two coordinators, Vanessa Beck and Claire Annesley for their work in organising the graduate conference which preceded the annual conference. He announced that the new coordinators were Emma Gittus (Birmingham) and Simon Pearce (Nottingham). He highlighted the introduction of the postgraduate prize (see below) as a further contribution to graduate activities in the ASGP.

Peter Johnson suggested that corporate membership of the British-German Association be investigated, and Prof. William Paterson highlighted the ASGP's links with the German-British Forum and its coordinator, Dr Stephen Collins.

5. Secretary's Report

Dr Green reported on the Association's conference activities in 1999 / 2000. As well as the Association's Silver Anniversary Conference in Berlin, a conference entitled 'Social and Political Transformation in Post-Communist Societies: The East German Example' was organised by the ASGP Social Transformation Study Group in collaboration with the ESRC on 25 March 2000. The annual conference in London attracted a total of 67 participants.

6. Treasurer's Report

Dr Timmins presented the ASGP's finances for 1999 and reported a healthy surplus of over £4000 for that year. He emphasised that this surplus arose out of one-off sponsorship for the Berlin conference and that it should not, therefore be regarded as typical (see below).

He also reported that the ASGP database was now fully operational and thanked the membership for their response to his request for database information, as well as for unpaid subscriptions. He suggested that the sum of £4000 be transferred to the ASGP's reserve account, which the meeting duly agreed. Dr Timmins was also authorised to review options for this reserve account, with the aim of securing greater interest returns.

Prof. Jeffery thanked Dr Timmins and announced that with effect from 2001, the Association would be operating within the framework of an annual budget. The draft budget for 2001, which was circulated at the meeting, will be refined and revised during the course of the year, and then formally approved at the Executive's meeting in December. The final budget for 2001 will also be presented to the next AGM in 2001.

7. Publications Report

Prof. Stephen Padgett reported that Prof. Eva Kolinsky had announced her intention to step down as editor of *German Politics* and reported that the editors had nominated Prof. Kenneth Dyson as her replacement. Prof. Padgett also reported that Prof. Jeffery intended to withdraw from the post of reviews editor, and proposed Dr Jonathan Grix and Dr Timmins as replacements, each to serve a term of two years. Both appointments were unanimously approved by the meeting. Prof. Padgett also announced that a renegotiation of fees paid to the ASGP by Frank Cass was imminent.

Prof. Paterson thanked Prof. Kolinsky and Prof. Smith for their outstanding work for the journal and announced his own intention to retire from the editorship in December 2001. He also argued that the negotiations with Cass would need to focus on obtaining professional support for the running of the journal, which found agreement among the meeting.

Stuart Philip suggested that *German Politics* should include a statement of the ASGP's aims, as well as listing its website address.

Dr Timmins reported that the planned relaunch of the Association's book series had been put on hold by Ashgate because of financial constraints. He also outlined his ideas for an 'ASGP Yearbook of Contemporary German Politics' and was authorised by the AGM to approach a range of publishers with an aim to securing a contract.

8. Graduate Network Report

Claire Annesley and Vanessa Beck reported on the Network's activities since its last conference in March 1999. A regional workshop entitled 'The Political Importance of Work' was held in Sheffield in January, and the 6th Graduate Conference was held in London, with 19 participants, many of whom were attending for the first time. Plans for the future included the establishment of a resource folder for conferences and an online directory. Prof. Jeffery thanked the two coordinators for their work.

9. Honorary President

With the end of Wolfgang Gibowski's term as Honorary President of the Association, Prof. Jeffery nominated Prof. Wolfgang Streeck, Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, to replace him. The AGM unanimously confirmed his appointment and his term of office, which runs until 2003.

10. Election of Executive

The following were nominated to serve on the Executive until 2001: Dr Beatrice Harper, Prof. Marianne Howarth, Dan Hough, Prof. Emil Kirchner, Monika Prützel-Thomas, Claire Annesley. There being no other candidates, all six were duly elected.

11. Subscription Rates 2001

Although the Association's finances continue to be sound, Dr Timmins noted that the ASGP was facing the prospect of higher costs in the near future. The ASGP's activities are undergoing a process of professionalisation, resulting in higher costs for administration (photocopying, mailshots, travel costs). Furthermore, the ASGP's plans to expand its activities, for instance with the postgraduate prize and an upgraded, more professional website also required an adjustment of membership rates to meet higher expenditure. He reminded the AGM that the Association's unusually large surplus in 1999 was unlikely to be repeated in the near future.

He therefore proposed the following subscription rates for 2001, which would simultaneously establish the principle of half-price membership for graduates:

Basic Membership	£ 10	(unchanged)
Full Membership	£ 28	(up from £ 24)
Basic Postgrads	£ 5	(up from £ 4.50)
Full Postgrads	£ 14	(up from £ 11)

These rates were approved by the AGM and take effect from 1 January 2001.

12. Annual Conference 2001

Dr Green proposed that the next annual conference in 2001 should be held in Birmingham and that the theme should be political parties. With vigorous support from Dr Charles Lees, the AGM accepted this proposal.

Claire Annesley suggested an ASGP panel at PSA and Prof. Jeffery agreed to investigate this.

13. ASGP Postgraduate Prize

Dr Green circulated the revised rules for this competition (reproduced later in this newsletter). He invited submissions for the first prize by 1 November 2000.

14. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

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Summary of Treasurer's Report: AGM 2000

A positive balance of £4338.44 was recorded for 1999. The Association had a current account balance of £8640.44 on 01.01.00 and total funds including reserve account and 306 Halifax shares amounted to £18010.76. As agreed at the 1999 Annual General Meeting, £2000.00 was transferred from the current to the reserve account and will be recorded in the 2000 report. It is recommended that a further £4000.00 be transferred to the reserve account in order to increase interest revenue. The Association's accounts derived considerable financial benefit from sponsorship received for conference activities during 1999 and the surplus achieved should not be interpreted as typical.

Association Annual Accounts 1999

Income

Membership Subscriptions	3780.57
Annual Conference Payments	8875.00
Sponsorship	4800.00
Frank Cass Editorial Fee	1000.00
Dartmouth Royalties Payment	398.53
Dartmouth Book Sales	48.00

Total:	18902.10

Expenditure

Frank Cass Subscriptions	3179.00
Conference Invoices	10690.18
Conference Hardship Payments	270.00
Database Maintenance Payment	100.00
Website Maintenance Payment	100.00
Secretarial Support Payment	100.00
Executive Committee Expenses	39.48
Membership Reimbursements	25.00
Bank Charges (foreign transactions)	60.00

Total:	14563.66

Membership Numbers

The ASGP currently has 225 members:

Full	153	Postgraduate Full	45
Basic	16	Postgraduate Basic	2
Honorary	9		

Increase in Membership Subscriptions 2001

It was agreed at the AGM (see §11 of the Minutes) that membership rates will be increased for 2001 and will be the following:

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Full	28.00	Postgraduate Full	14.00
Basic	10.00	Postgraduate Basic	5.00

Annual and Graduate Conference 2001, Wed 25 – Fri 27 April 2001

We can already announce that the Annual Conference in 2001, on the theme of *Political Parties in Germany*, will be held at the University of Birmingham.

Please make a note of this in your diaries.

Conference Reports

ASGP Annual Conference

This year's ASGP Annual Conference, held at the German Historical Institute in London on 27 and 28 April, concentrated on the theme of **Germany and Eastern Europe**.

Proceedings were opened by **Professor Roland Sturm** (Erlangen-Nürnberg), who introduced the problems and prospects of the eastern enlargement of the EU. The former appeared to predominate. Though existing members had agreed to enlargement in principle, it was likely to prove expensive and by no means all the applicants met all the conditions imposed at the Copenhagen Summit, particularly in the area of human rights. More ethnic conflicts were also on the horizon. The EU's solutions to these difficulties offered few grounds for optimism. The fifteen members had failed, both at Amsterdam and Berlin, to sort out financial arrangements for the agricultural and structural funds. New members could not simply be excluded from the benefit of these funds, but existing ones, notably Germany as the leading paymaster, were showing less rather than more generosity these days. Necessary institutional reforms to cut the size of the European Parliament and Commission and replace the unanimity requirement in the Council of Ministers with greater scope for majority vetting has likewise been postponed. The differing speeds of integration among the 15, even the absence of natural boundaries to the EU towards the east and south-east, were further complicating factors which could not be solved by the traditional mechanism of power-broking and package-deals at EU summits. In the course of a lively discussion, members attempted to argue a more optimistic line, but the consensus remained: the Pessimists have it.

The after-lunch session comprised a panel discussion on Germany and the central and eastern European states. **Dr Vladimir Handl** (Birmingham) concentrated on Germany and the Visegrad countries. In spite of their tragic common history, relations had gradually been normalised, though to a varying extent, with Poland perceived as Berlin's main partner. Multilateral negotiations at the EU level had reduced the fear of German domination among her eastern neighbours. Nevertheless, Germany's main interest remained in the West, rather than the East. **Ann Kennard** (UWE) followed by

analysing German-Polish cross-border co-operation. Much had been achieved by co-operation from the bottom up in the new European regions of Pomerania, Viadrina and Spree/Neiße/Bober, in fields as varied as coping with environmental pollution, improving cross-border infrastructure and establishing the European Viadrina University. The success of the co-operation meant that it served as a model in similar areas on Poland's southern and eastern borders. **Heather Grabbe** (Birmingham) looked at the advances towards economic interpretation on the broader scale, and examined the development of trade between the CEE states and their EU partners, in particular Germany. Germany had taken a strong lead in foreign direct investment as well as trade. But there was little evidence that the German consensus model was being exported eastwards, since the EU model for development was a much more neo-liberal one. It was hard to measure the extent to which the central European countries were ready for EU membership, since this involved so many factors - disagreement over what constituted a 'competitive economy' or how best to catch up with average EU living standards. Like Roland Sturm, she concluded that European politicians had focused too much on domestic issues so far, and failed to see the potential advantages which would derive from enlargement. Once again, the session stimulated a lively discussion in which all three panel members were able to expand on their statements and go into issues in greater depth.

A final short session in the afternoon dealt with a different vexed question of immediate concern to many members present: the **2001 Research Assessment Exercise**. Two prominent ASGP members, **Professor Ken Dyson** of Bradford University and **Professor John Flood**, Head of the Institute of Germanic Studies, would be chairing the panels to assess European Studies and German and Scandinavian languages respectively. Both chairs emphasised the degree of co-operation and cross-referencing between the various panels, and the importance of academic excellence rather than a formal hierarchy of types of publication. A number of inaccurate rumours were circulating and should be scotched: the request for details of *up to four* publications did not mean that those with *fewer* than four should not be entered, merely that the reason there were fewer than four should be explained. In cases of younger researchers in particular, but also in those of staff who may have interrupted their careers, this was totally understandable and universities should not hesitate to enter such academics in their submissions.

The annual dinner at the Old Refectory of University College, in the opinion of this writer a much more frugal affair than on previous occasions, was greatly enlivened by presentations to Dr Sebastian Fohrbeck, about to leave his post as Head of the London Office of the German Academic Exchange Service, and to the ASGP's retiring Honorary President, Professor Wolfgang Gibowski. The highlight of the evening, however, was a brief and witty address by the Bavarian-born MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, **Gisela Stuart**, recently appointed a junior minister in the Blair government.

The second day of the conference was kicked off by **Professor Gibowski**, who after the change of government in 1998 had taken charge of the Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future. This Foundation had been set up in response to the sufferings of forced labourers and slave labourers employed by Germans during the Nazi tyranny. Now that the unification question had been solved and the Iron Curtain had fallen, the few remaining survivors of this treatment were entitled to compensation from Germany. An additional stimulus to German action was the threat from American lawyers to initiate class actions in the USA against German

companies which had exploited forced labourers: at best such trials could have led to appalling publicity for such companies, at worst to huge fines. So the Foundation had been established to co-ordinate payments from German firms; in the end a compensation figure of DM 10 million had been agreed with the Americans, half to come from German tax-payers, half from industry. Out of some 200,000 German companies, a total of 1500 had already indicated a readiness to contribute to the fund. Members expressed their support for Professor Gibowski's project but pointed out the possibilities for many companies to act as free-riders, gaining security against prosecution in the USA without themselves paying a penny. Nevertheless, the German record on such payments was considerably better than that of Austria and Switzerland.

The academic highlight of the conference was the German Politics Lecture, delivered this year by **Professor Hanns Maull** from Trier University, author of the concept of Germany as a 'civilian power'. In an academic and rhetorical *tour de force*, he examined whether this still applied after the participation of German Tornados in the bombing of Kosovo and Yugoslavia. This led to a detailed examination of the causes and course of the war against Serbia and the specific role of the new Red-Green coalition as loyal allies in the fighting, yet also keen negotiators, desperate to bring it to an end as soon as possible. He reflected on the internal political pressure of the two parties, which both contained pacifist wings and others willing to demonstrate their loyalty to the NATO alliance and to the Americans in particular. Their attitudes had evolved over a period of time from the Gulf War onwards, but the readiness to get involved in military activities had been accelerated by the experience of government responsibility and justified by the horror of apparent atrocities committed by Serb troops. Public opinion within Germany had largely supported the government line.

Professor Maull examined the German government's motives in still greater depth, in the light of the country's past and of its current moral values. 'Never again Germany at war' had been replaced by 'never again Germany alone: only in alliance with its partners' and 'never again Auschwitz'. There was also a fear that, if Serb atrocities continued, they would lead to a mass exodus of refugees to Germany, and that if Germany stayed out of any conflict, it would lose all influence over NATO policy.

Yet in spite of its participation in the war, Germany remained in Professor Maull's opinion a civilian power. It had shown itself willing to assume responsibilities in order to maintain democratic and humanitarian values, even though no immediate German interests were threatened. It was necessary to act because others were behaving much less humanely than Germany; this had to be stopped and the perpetrators punished. But problems remained; the Bundeswehr was not well qualified to cope with its new role. There was a need for creative thinking to remedy this, but as yet no evidence for it, Prof. Maull concluded, to enthusiastic and well-deserved applause from his listeners.

After lunch the final paper was given by **Dr Adrian Hyde-Price** (Birmingham) on the changing security dimension in Europe, with NATO already enlarged and the EU developing its own military co-operation and on Germany's 'grand strategy' amidst these changes. In view of its size, prosperity, influence and not least its central geographical role, the new Germany was pivotal to the changes. To the traditional multilateral approach and strategic partnerships with the USA and France had now been added a partnership with Poland. A new tactic was described as 'mini-lateralism', co-ordinating plans with small groups of allies such as the Contact Group over Yugoslavia. Extending NATO to include Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary

was necessary, but at the same time a co-operative relationship with Russia has to be maintained. After the Kosovo war, defence experts had concluded that Europe had to increase its military capacity and work together more effectively, a process initiated at the Franco-German summit at St Malo. However, this was still at an early stage and raised so far unanswered questions about the role of the USA and NATO and the willingness of cash-strapped European governments to contribute adequate resources to the project. This was especially so, since many voters were now accepting the broader definition of security, which goes far beyond the area of military hardware and institutional architecture. Discussion on this thought-provoking paper proved all too short.

Ian King
South Bank University

Sixth ASGP Graduate Conference .
Germany and the World

German Historical Institute, Wednesday 26 April 2000

As a newcomer to the ASGP scene I was unsure what to expect when I turned up at the rather posh venue at Bloomsbury Square. These insecurities were short-lived, however, as the friendly assembly of post-graduates reassured me that the conference would be more a forum for meeting fellow students and discovering various research interests, than a chance for critical wolves to prey upon the work of would-be doctors.

The first session of papers investigated a rich area of policy-making processes in Germany, ranging from the domestic affairs of pension reform, through Germany's moral and social polemic of armament, to a more outward-looking issue of modern foreign policy. The extensive discussion encouraged a correspondingly wide response, and when the panel broke up for lunch the audience was not only wiser about a range of political issues in Germany, but also more sensitive to the often controversial manner in which they are being handled.

The post-lunch theme concentrated on Germany and Europe. The international panel which came together to discuss this theme is indicative of the huge significance that Germany is perceived to have in the European and consequently worldwide dimension. The papers succinctly examined the complexities of Germany's European role, with its sensitivities to nations fearing German hegemony, but also with its responsibilities in Eastern Europe following unification.

The final two papers moved away from the political dimension and focused upon a cultural understanding of the tensions and problems confronting Germany in the past and today. The examination of literature and film illustrated that the issues which had been addressed throughout the day during the conference, are being confronted by Germans in a variety of subtle and interesting ways.

The success of the conference can largely be credited to the conference organisers, Vanessa Beck and Claire Annesley, who not only managed to structure the day in a particularly fruitful manner, but also did so with a friendliness and openness which brought many strangers together and enriched everyone's perspective of Germany.

Simon Pearce
University of Nottingham

Research Workshop on Social Transformation in East Germany

IGS, Birmingham, 25 March 2000

This one-day workshop was the third in four years held on this topic and the interest displayed by participants shows that the theme of Transformation continues to generate lively debate and new approaches. **Eva Kolinsky** (Wolverhampton) set the scene by sketching key issues and different analytical approaches. **Jonathan Grix** (IGS), in an opening paper on 'Democratisation in east Germany', addressed the question of why in an economy and society undergoing profound transformation, there are low levels of social trust, a loss of confidence in the rule of law and a weak participation in civic culture. In east Germany, support for institutions seems contingent upon economic performance and there are no socially-rooted allegiances. This raises the key question of how to overcome high levels of distrust shown by east Germans in their political parties. One analytical approach is through the notion of reflexive attitude formation, comprising both socialist legacies and situational factors. In practice, there is a dynamic interaction between civil society participation, economic performance and institutions.

Chris Flockton (Surrey) looked at the role of a new Mittelstand in the economic transformation in east Germany, focusing in detail on the growth of SMEs. He addressed the issue of whether these were the seeds of future growth, particularly in high technology branches. In practice, there were important clusters of new firms established in IT, electronics and biotechnology, but these were too small to have a substantial impact, while the greater proportion of SMEs lay in production-related and personal services, which suffered from the slow growth in incomes and activity. Also on the question of small business development and economic transformation, **Silke Machold's** (Wolverhampton) paper focused on development in Hungary and Russia. In practice, unlike the considerable expectations placed in this supposed 'seed-corn', small business may be 'phantom' for tax-avoidance purposes, or a reflection of self-employment forced on those thrown out of regular salaried employment. Typical is a fragmentation and atomisation. For mutual support and innovation there is a need for an appropriate mix between medium-sized firms and larger industrial enterprises. A large SME sector can therefore reflect serious structural weakness in the economy.

Hildegard Maria Nickel (Humboldt) addressed the question of employment and gender in post-communist Germany. Overall, it was clear that women were substantial losers in the unification changes, exhibiting higher rates and lengths of unemployment. In two person households, the importance of the woman's position in the labour market had a direct impact on household income. East Germany is some way from the gender model of the west, but there is a confrontation between the two systems in respect of women's levels of employment participation and aspirations for a career. Gender relations are path-dependent and deep structural changes in the east

have eroded the model of a combined working and family life. There are, however, opportunities for redesigned employment roles in areas such as banking, retail and the railways, which have given new scope for women. This has produced greater differentiation in the employment position of women. **Mechthild Matheja-Theaker** (UWE) addressed the issue of women's poverty in Germany in 1990, both in absolute and relative levels: she described the 'new poverty' of the 1990s, which was concealed or latent. Research studies had shown that, with incomes of DM940 per head, there would be 10 million poor in Germany. The speaker showed how meagre social assistance levels could be. Women were over-represented as social assistance claimants, as poorer pensioners, in the share of the long-term unemployed and among those with interrupted work patterns: obviously, single mothers represented also a significant part of the problem and accounted for some of the increase in the new poor.

Rebecca Kay (Glasgow), in her paper 'The right choice or the right to choose: attitudes to women in post-soviet Russia', showed how negative had been the impact on women of Russian reform. Even in the later Soviet period, there was ambivalence in public opinion over women's role in the workplace. With reform, unemployment struck hard and there was accelerated feminisation of poverty, above all of unmarried mothers. The conventional wisdom in the last decade was for women to return to the household: this was an ideological expression in reaction to the Soviet stress on 'excessive vocational participation of women' opposing the 'oppressive view of emancipation through labour market participation'. Regional newspapers and radio often expressed the view that women were the 'guardians of the home hearth'. **Rosalind Pritchard** (Coleraine) stimulated a lively discussion in the form of a Round Table of the speakers.

Chris Flockton
University of Surrey

The Role of Organisational and Managerial Structures in Safety and Health: Britain and Germany Compared South Bank University, February 4 2000

The aim of the conference was to focus on the role that organisational and managerial structures have in the efficacy of health and safety and to provide an insight into the way safety and health is organised in two countries with very different national structures and industrial relations systems. Six speakers from Germany and the UK gave papers, and there was a lively Round Table discussion including CBI and TUC participants as well as practising managers and safety professionals. The German speakers were generously sponsored by the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society and the *Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften*.

Manfred Rentrop the Head of the Safety Department at the *Hauptverband der gewerblichen Berufsgenossenschaften* spoke on 'The Role of the Professional Associations in Supporting and Promoting Occupational Health and Safety in Germany'. Mr Rentrop outlined the principles and the organisation of the *Berufsgenossenschaften* in Germany, underlining their political independence and the source of their funding, which comes entirely from their member companies' subscriptions. **Max Angermaier**, the Political Officer at the Health and Safety

department of the IG Metall spoke on 'Trade Union Perception of Management's Approach to Health and Safety Structures in the Metal Working Industry in Germany'. Mr Angermaier stressed that the employer has overall responsibility for health and safety at the enterprise, assisted by specialised staff. Mr Angermaier highlighted the unequal provision for occupational health and safety between large and small enterprises and underlined union opposition to deregulation in the area of occupational health and safety. **David Walters**, Head of the Centre for Industrial and Environmental Safety and Health at South Bank University presented a paper on 'Implementing European Strategies for Health and Safety at Work in the UK: the Case of the EU Framework Directive 89/391'. Dr Walters elaborated on national perceptions of various aspects of health and safety strategies, and highlighted representative worker participation as an example of the greatest differences between national models. **Peter Vergossen**, Technical Director for Central and Eastern Europe, Friskies Deutschland GmbH (a Nestlé subsidiary) addressed the conference on 'Management's Perception of Health and Safety Structures in Germany'. Mr Vergossen talked about the differences within Germany between industries and detailed his company's approach to health and safety. **Beatrice Harper**, Research Fellow in the Division of Modern Languages at the Business School, South Bank University, presented a selection from her findings from a comparative research project on health and safety in Germany and the UK in 'The Interrelationship between Management and Health and Safety Structures in Germany'. Dr Harper's choice of firms for case studies lay in the metalworking, electronics and chemical industries. She elaborated on the internal communication structures in the firms, highlighting the formal and the informal networks. **Alan Dalton**, a board member of the Environment Agency, talked about 'The Interface Between Health, Safety and the Environment in the UK'. A long-term campaigner, Mr Dalton made the point that there are still more deaths from asbestos than road accidents and stated that the government position on environmental issues appears to depend on pressure exerted from outside.

The day closed with a rewarding **Round Table** discussion, chaired by Dr Harper, at which the participants gave short statements. These included comments about the need for more good business practice in health and safety, the length of time managers in small firms spend on risk assessment, the need for the dissemination of information and consultation in health and safety, the fact that health and safety is unequivocally a management issue, and the need for effective implementation of existing legislation.

Beatrice Harper
South Bank University

ASGP Postgraduate Prize

At this year's AGM, the final rules for this prize were approved and we are now inviting entries by 1 November 2000. Please draw this to the attention of any postgraduate student who might be interested, either here or abroad. A flyer is enclosed to display in your departments and further copies are available from me.

Dr Simon Green, ASGP Secretary
Email: simon.green@port.ac.uk

2000/2001 ASGP Postgraduate Prize Rules

1. The Association for the Study of German Politics (ASGP) is offering a prize for the best research paper submitted to it by a postgraduate student. It is intended that this prize should be offered annually.
2. The winner will receive a £100 book token, and the winning paper will be published in the first available issue of *German Politics*. At the discretion of the jury, up to two runners-up may also be announced.
3. The deadline for receipt of entries is 1 November 2000. Entries must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association.
4. Entries are invited from all students, from the UK or abroad, registered for a higher degree at the deadline, which address a topic within the remit of the Association's activities, i.e. politics in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Students must provide evidence of their status (e.g. confirmation from their supervisor) at the time of submission.
5. No previously published papers will be accepted. Entries which are published elsewhere after submission will also be disqualified.
6. Papers must be in English, no longer than 7,000 words and conform to the house style of *German Politics*.
7. The winner of the prize will be selected by a jury of the Association's members. The jury will be appointed annually by the Chair of the Association, and will normally consist of three members, at least one of whom shall also be an editor of *German Politics*. The composition of the jury will reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the Association's activities.
8. The winner will be selected by 1 February 2001 and notified as soon as possible thereafter. The £100 book token prize will be formally awarded at the next annual conference dinner. Attendance at the conference is a precondition for award of the prize.
9. The judges' decision is final. The Association reserves the right to withhold the prize if no papers of sufficient quality are submitted.

For further information, please contact:

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GradNet Coordinators:

The new coordinators are Emma Gittus (Birmingham) Gittusej@hhs.bham.ac.uk and Simon Pearce (Nottingham) siploos@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Note to all ASGP Members

STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS -

This is the last ASGP Newsletter in the traditional printed format

Please ensure that in future you will be able to receive the Electronic Newsletter by sending details of your E-Mail address to:

Dr Graham Timmins, Treasurer, Association for the Study of German Politics
E-Mail: g.timmins@hud.ac.uk (office) or timmins@globalnet.co.uk (home)

Just write **E-mail Newsletter** in the subject. No further information or text is required unless the e-mail address to which the Newsletter should be sent differs to that on the confirmation e-mail.

N.B.: Please inform Graham if you do not have access to an e-mail address.

*The ASGP Newsletter is edited by Astrid Küllmann-Lee and Beatrice Harper.
It may be accessed at the ASGP website: <<http://www.bham.ac.uk/ASGP.htm>>.
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