

June 2001

Message from the Chair

The 2001 Annual Conference was as usual the landmark of the ASGP year. Held in Birmingham on 26-27 April, it provided a lively forum for discussion of the theme Parties and Party Systems in Germany. The highpoints were many, but I will pick out two. First was Peter Mair's sovereign mastery of the techniques of comparative analysis in placing our familiar insights into the German party system into an unfamiliar but extremely stimulating comparative perspective. The second was the flamboyance with which Gerry Kleinfeld put the PDS into an Arizonan perspective in a tour de force of presentational skills.

I pick out these highpoints because they lead in different ways into what will be the key agenda for the ASGP in the coming year – to review the direction and assess the audience of our journal *German Politics*. *German Politics* has established itself since its launch just nine years ago as the leading outlet in its field. The founding team of editors – Gordon Smith, Eva Kolinsky, Willie Paterson and Stephen Padgett – have by any criteria done an extraordinary job. Come the end of this year only Stephen will remain as part of the editorial team. As new editors have joined there has been an opportunity to identify next and new steps for the journal. Ken Dyson has been leading the way in reviewing how the journal works, and one key aim for the future will be to introduce more work which analyses German politics – as Peter Mair did at the Annual Conference – comparatively.

A further aim is to win a higher profile for the journal in the USA. The close relationships we have been developing with Gerry Kleinfeld – Executive Director of the US German Studies Association – will certainly help us do this. A strong ASGP presence at the GSA's 25th Anniversary Conference in Washington in October will as well. We have also been discussing how we can best develop our partnership with Frank Cass to support these new directions for the journal, and I hope to be able to report on developments here more fully in the next Newsletter.

One final word for this one though: at the AGM in Birmingham both Graham Timmins and Simon Green came to the end of their terms as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. As all those who came to deal with them – not least me - know, they made an immense contribution to the Association over the last three years. Many thanks - but also welcome to their successors, both very active members and stalwarts of the ASGP: Beatrice Harper, the new Secretary and Joanna McKay, the new Treasurer.

Charlie Jeffery
University of Birmingham

Association for the Study of German Politics

Annual General Meeting

Institute for German Studies, University of Birmingham, 27 April 2001

Present:

Claire Annesley	Dan Hough	Stephen Padgett
Peter Barker	Marianne Howarth	Willie Paterson
Vanessa Beck	Peter James	Stuart Philip
David Broughton	Charlie Jeffery (Chair)	Monika Prützel-Thomas
Andreas Busch	Ian King	Peter Pulzer
Kenneth Dyson	Emil Kirchner	Antje Sommer
Tom Dyson	Astrid Küllmann-Lee	Graham Timmins (Treasurer)
Simon Green (Secretary)	Joanna McKay	Nick Tolhurst
Beatrice Harper	Neville Osmond	

1. Apologies for absence

Geoff Roberts, Stuart Drummond, Gerd Knischewski, Rebecca Harding, Karl Koch

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

These were distributed in the November 2000 newsletter and were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed that these would be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. Chair's Report

Honorary President

Charlie Jeffery reported that Prof. Wolfgang Streeck of the Max-Planck-Institute für Gesellschaftsforschung has accepted the Association's invitation to become its Hon. President. His term will run until April 2003.

Representing the ASGP

Charlie Jeffery reported that the Association has been consolidating its representative role on behalf of the German political studies community. Links with the new Directors at the DAAD and Goethe-Institute (Nina Lemmens and Ulrich Sacker respectively) have been established at meetings in January 2001, at both indicated their intention to continue providing invaluable support to the Association's activities.

A new relationship has also been forged with the German-British Forum via David Marsh (Hawkpoint Partners), which links key players in the British and German private sectors committed to deepening UK-German cooperation. As a result, an ASGP delegation consisting of Ken Dyson, Simon Green, Beatrice Harper and Thomas Saalfeld attended a GBF dinner with Joschka Fischer in January 2001. Prof. Jeffery hopes to build on these links in the future, with the sharing of web resources an initial priority.

German Studies Association (GSA)

The Chair reaffirmed his intention to seek corporate membership of the GSA for the Association. The ASGP will run two named panels at the next GSA conference in October 2001 in Washington, and Prof. Jeffery is exploring British Academy support to help ASGP members to attend. In addition, the GSA Executive Director, Prof. Gerry Kleinfeld and one of its leading political scientists, Prof. Christian S e, spoke at the Association's 2001 Annual Conference in Birmingham.

Executive Committee

Prof. Jeffery reported on the new format of the Committee, which sees a full meeting held each December to discuss ASGP activities and agree a budget for the forthcoming calendar year. He thanked the Committee for their work, especially Dan Hough for his work on the website and Marianne Howarth for all-round good advice. He also thanked Beatrice Harper and Astrid K llmann-Lee for their continuing excellent work with the newsletter. Finally, he proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Secretary, whose terms of office came to an end at this AGM.

5. Secretary's Report

Conferences

Simon Green reported that the Annual Conference 2000 was held at the German Historical Institute in London on the theme of *Germany and Eastern Europe*. 67 people attended, with the conference making a small surplus of £91.70 on a turnover of £4915.

This year's Annual Conference was held at the Institute for German Studies, and had *Parties and Party Systems* as its theme. The *German Politics* lecture was given by Prof. Peter Mair, and Dr Green proposed a vote of thanks to Prof. Willie Paterson for making the Institute's facilities and support structures available to the Association, which was unanimously accepted. He stated that the Association has been fortunate to have avoided large increases in conference fees over the last two years, but noted that this might not be possible in the future, especially when conferences are held in London, so that the recent trend of small surpluses could be maintained.

ASGP Postgraduate Prize

Dr Green reported on the Postgraduate Prize, which was held for the first time this year. Four entries were received, all of which were of a very high standard. The winner was

Claire Sutherland (University of Edinburgh) for her paper *Nation, Heimat, Vaterland: The Reinvention of Concepts by the Bavarian CSU Party*. She received free attendance at the conference and a cheque for £100. Her article will be published in the December 2001 issue of *German Politics*. The article will be flagged as the prizewinning entry, which will hopefully encourage other students to make their own submissions in the future.

Dr Green informed the Association that the deadline for submissions for next year's prize is 1 November 2001, and the rules are available via the ASGP website (<http://www.bham.ac.uk/asgp>)

Dr Green reported that the Executive Committee's working party on the ASGP website presented preliminary recommendations at the December 2000 Executive Meeting. The recommendations follow later on in this report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Graham Timmins delivered another very positive report on the Association's finances, which saw a further healthy surplus of over £4000 (although this would be reduced once some large invoices outstanding from 2000 were claimed). In April 2001, the Association had 209 members, of which 139 were full and 50 postgraduates.

He also pointed out that Stuart Parkes had indicated his desire to relinquish formal ownership of the Association's Halifax shares, following his retirement in April 2001. Charlie Jeffery proposed a vote to Prof. Parkes for holding the shares and for his overall long and invaluable contribution to the Association's activities. Prof. Paterson suggested that he be offered free attendance at the 2002 Annual Conference and it was agreed that the new Secretary should write to him with this invitation.

Dr Timmins also proposed transferring £4000 to the reserve account. This was accepted by the AGM and it was agreed that the new Treasurer would aim to consolidate all the Association's reserve funds (including money raised from the shares) in a more advantageous structure.

Dr Timmins noted that Frank Cass had demanded an increase in the Association's subscription payments for *German Politics*, but it was agreed by the AGM that acceptance of this would be made subject to agreement on the overarching negotiations on the journal (reported below).

Dr Timmins reported that he had received enquiries about a new membership rate for retired colleagues. The AGM felt that reduced rates for conferences would be preferable, and Neville Osmond also suggested a possible hardship fund for such members. The new Secretary was authorised to examine the various options and make appropriate recommendations.

Finally, the membership rates for 2002 were confirmed at their 2001 level (£28 full, £14 full PG membership).

7. Publications Report

Stephen Padgett reported that, after ten years, the journal had established itself as a market leader, but that a series of tough choices were also faced by the Association. He announced that Prof. Paterson will retire from the editorial board in December 2001, and proposed a vote of thanks to him for all his work. He also proposed that Prof. Jeffery replace Prof. Paterson from that time, which was confirmed by the membership.

Prof. Padgett also reported on the editorial team's discussions on a business plan for the next ten years of the journal, which included a confirmation of the journal's code of practice regarding refereeing in the December 2001 issue. The other key issue is increasing the journal's exposure in the United States, for which purpose the Association's links with the GSA will be crucial.

In particular, Prof. Padgett reported on the long-running negotiations with Frank Cass over a new financial agreement for the journal, to include some secretarial support for the editors. To date, no satisfactory agreement has been reached, and the implications of this were discussed. The issue of copyright was especially difficult, as it is held by Cass. As holding the copyright can bring major long-term financial benefits, the AGM authorised the editors to commit up to 50% of the Association's reserve funds for its purchase.

8. Graduate Network Report

Simon Green thanked the outgoing Graduate Network coordinators, Simon Pearce and Emma Gittus, for organising another lively Graduate Conference around the theme of *The Berlin Republic*, which 24 people attended. He also congratulated them on being particularly successful in obtaining sponsorship: not only did Pricewaterhousecoopers again sponsor the conference with £450, but the AGF has also promised to provide the Network's hardship fund with £1500.

At this year's conference, two new coordinators were elected: Silke Pottebohm (Birmingham) and Tom Dyson (LSE).

9. ASGP Website

Dan Hough presented the Executive Committee's recommendations for the future of the ASGP website. He proposed that the website be divided into two main sections to include a members-only area. In particular, he recommended purchasing a domain name for the ASGP (www.asgp.ac.uk), which costs £80+VAT, plus £500+VAT to set up.

The AGM agreed to make this initial investment under Dr Hough's guidance, and authorised the officers to return to the content issue at a later date, in particular once Cass has decided to make *German Politics* available online.

10. Election of Treasurer

Dr Joanna McKay was nominated as new Association Treasurer until April 2004 and was elected unopposed.

11. Election of Secretary

Dr Beatrice Harper was nominated as new Association Secretary until April 2004 and was elected unopposed.

12. Election of Executive

The following nominations were received to serve on the ASGP Executive Committee until April 2002: Emil Kirchner, Dan Hough, Monika Prützel-Thomas, Simon Green, Graham Timmins, David Broughton and Claire Annesley. An election was held, and following a tie for the sixth place, the AGM exceptionally agreed that all seven should serve on the Committee.

13. Annual Conference 2002

Dr Green announced that the 2002 conference would be held at the Goethe Institute in London on the theme of *Governance in the Berlin Republic*.

14. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

Committee Contact Addresses

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N.B. The next Annual Conference will take place at the Goethe Institute, London, from Wednesday the 10th to Friday the 12th April 2002. The theme is 'Governance in the Berlin Republic'. As usual, the first day will be taken up by the Post-graduate programme.

Please put the dates in your diaries.

Other Association Business

A brief message from the new Treasurer:

Notice for members abroad:

Could you please pay your subs by bank transfer or foreign bankers draft in future.

Account details are as follows:

Nat West New Mills Branch,
a/c no. 83994327, sort code: 01-06-05.

Reminder for all:

Membership rates for 2002 remain at their 2001 level:

£28 full £14 full PG membership £10 basic, £5 basic PG membership

Changes of Address

Could you please inform Joanna McKay of all changes of address/ E-mail, so that you will continue to receive *German Politics* and the ASGP Newsletter.

ASGP Prize

Please circulate details of the ASGP prize to all your post-graduate students!

We would like to interest as many up-and-coming scholars as possible. As well as receiving the prize money, the winner will have their essay published in *German Politics*.

Details are included at the end of this Newsletter, and are also posted on the ASGP website: <http://www.bham.ac.uk/asgp/asgp>

The deadline for submission is November 1, 2001.

Newsletter Editors

This is the last Newsletter put together by Astrid Küllmann-Lee and Beatrice Harper. Dan Hough has kindly agreed to take on this task and will be the new Editor. For the future, please send your items, preferably as e-mail attachments, to:

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Conference Reports

ASGP Annual Conference

The Association held its two-day Annual Conference, following on from the Postgraduate Conference, on 26 and 27 April at the Institute for German Studies at Birmingham University. The proceedings were opened by Professor Wolfgang Rudzio (Oldenburg University), now in a state of 'active retirement', who explained the workings of political party funding in Germany and endeavoured to put the financial scandals involving Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats into perspective. The party had suffered far more at the hands of the voters than in any of the fines levied, which by and large had not yet been paid.

In the afternoon we had the opportunity to hear from an active politician – a traditional feature of earlier conferences whose return was welcomed by several members. Steffie Schnoor, the CDU leader in the state of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, gave a lively talk on recent changes and the prospects for her party; its position was difficult but not hopeless.

After a break for coffee, Peter Mair (University of Leiden, the Netherlands) took a comparative view of German politics, specifically in relation to the Greens. Green parties were strongest in classical consociational democracies such as the Benelux countries, Austria and Switzerland, and of course in Germany, and much weaker in polarised two-party states. A particularly lively discussion developed over the extent to which the Greens were now a 'normal' party.

A highlight of the Conference Dinner at University House was the award of the ASGP's first Postgraduate Essay Prize to Claire Sutherland (Edinburgh University) for a study on the CSU and the concept of 'Heimat'; Claire had also delivered the paper at the Postgraduate Conference on the previous day. An after-dinner speech was by Lord Roper, the former Labour, then SDP MP, now with the Liberal Democrats, for whom he serves as Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

Proceedings on the Friday morning were opened by Uwe Jun (Potsdam University), an expert on the SPD (and on New Labour). After the 1998 election, the process of inner-party modernisation had continued away from a mass membership party to one which encouraged new forms of participation. It retains its advantage over the CDU but still has major weaknesses in the East.

The following session focused on the three small parties. Beatrice Harper (South Bank University) examined the trials and tribulations of the Greens in government. To lose 17 elections in a row did sound to many of her listeners like carelessness. However the party's difficult position vis a vis the SDP certainly did not help.

Christian Soe (California State University at Long Beach) dealt with the Free Democrats, describing how they were adjusting to their new role as a small opposition party. An electoral recovery set in in the Spring of 2000 and the FDP's performance in elections and status in the polls put them back as Germany's third party. At the next general election they could offer their services to the SPD.

Gerald Kleinfeld (Arizona State University) tackled the PDS, which had defied the prophets of doom and was still the only party in the East with a sizeable following of convinced supporters. After the defeat of the reformers Gysi and Bisky, the new and comparatively unknown leadership nevertheless faced an uphill struggle.

Due to the unfortunate illness of Thomas Saalfeld, the final talk was given by Charlie Jeffery (University of Birmingham). Charlie described a project in which he and Dan Hough were analysing the relationship of voting performance of state, European and general elections, a topic on which surprisingly little had been written in relation to Germany. Governments in Bonn, and now Berlin, would be expected to lose votes in mid-term, but the protestors often opted for smaller parties in preference to the main opposition.

Ian King, South Bank University

GradNet News

The Graduate Network Conference organised by Simon and Emma had a good attendance and was a great success. The papers raised interesting questions about continuity and change from the Bonn to the Berlin Republic. The conference was organised into three main themes: Unification and Partition in German Language and Literature; Germany, Europe and Issues of Identity and The Changing Fortunes of the Berlin Republic. The interdisciplinary approach allowed us to explore a wide range of issues and we ended the conference with an evening out in Birmingham.

In the coming months Silke and I are looking forward to building upon the successes of Simon and Emma in promoting and expanding participation in the Graduate Network. We hope to do this through building closer links with the graduate networks of other related associations. We also hope to develop the GradNet webpage and make it a more useful tool for students of German Studies. Silke and I will attempt to deepen links between GradNet members by developing an email information service to allow students to share useful information with others working in their field. Also, over the coming months we hope to build links with Parliamentary groups in the Bundestag and Lander Parliaments and foster closer contacts with groups able to provide internships for Grad Net members.

Finally Silke and I are looking forward to organising the Graduate conference in 2002 in London and hope to emulate the success of this year's conference.

Tom and Silke

POSTGRADUATE PRIZE

The Association invites submissions for its 2002 postgraduate prize on any area of German, Austrian or Swiss politics. Any student from the UK or abroad registered for higher degree at the deadline is eligible.

Submissions must be in English, no more than 7,000 words in length and have not been published elsewhere. The winner will receive a £100 book token and free attendance at the 2002 annual conference. The paper will be published in the first available issue of the Association's journal, *German Politics*.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is 1 November 2001

For further information, please contact the ASGP Secretary:
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Full details of the rules are also available on the ASGP website:

<http://www.bham.ac.uk/asgp/asgp>

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 2002 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.