

# Need to Know XII and IIHA conference 2023

Intelligence and security on border regions  
and spheres of influence

Graz (Austria), 17th to 19th October 2023



## 17TH OCTOBER YOUNG RESEARCHERS FORUM N2K/IIHA

UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ, RESOWI CENTER,  
WING F, 4TH FLOOR, ROOM SR 15.4BIN

14:00 – 16:00 **Young Researchers Forum**

**Chair:** Sylwia Szyc (Institute of National Remembrance)

**Moderators:** Thomas W. Friis (University of Southern Denmark), Władysław Bułhak (Institute of National Remembrance)

**Stefanie Kirchweger:** Austrian-Israeli Intelligence Cooperation

**Mohamed Mohamady:** Soviet Strategy in Africa

**Monika Stachoń:** The imperial game in the Middle East. The coup in Iran in 1953

**Christoph Huber:** Soviet- Austrian trade through Americans eyes

**Jon Thulstrup:** Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger: Surveillance of the German Minority in Denmark

# **18TH OCTOBER** CONFERENCE, DAY 1

CASTLE OF ST. MARTIN

**Introduction 9:00-9:30**

**Moderation:** Dieter Bacher (LBI for Research on Consequences of War)

**Barbara Stelzl-Marx** (LBI for Research on Consequences of War, University of Graz)

**Karol Polejowski** (Institute of National Remembrance)

**Shlomo Shpiro** (International Intelligence History Association)

**Peter Ruggenthaler** (LBI for Research on Consequences of War)

**9:30-10:00 Keynote Speaker: Michael Lohnegger** (Direktion Staatsschutz und Nachrichtendienst, DSN)

**10:00-11:30 – PANEL I: Case study 1: Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia as a “border region”**

**Chair:** Barbara Stelzl-Marx (LBI for Research on Consequences of War, University of Graz)

**Dieter Bacher** (LBI for Research on Consequences of War): Connecting dots. Complementary methods in researching Czechoslovakian intelligence in Austria during the early Cold War

**Philipp Lesiak** (LBI for Research on Consequences of War): Networks and Neutrality. Early Cold War Austria and the Czechoslovak Legacy

**Daniel Belousek** (Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of Czech Republic): Sending couriers to Czechoslovakia as a part of anti-communist resistance in the first half of the 1950s

**Magdolna Barath** (Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security): In the Shadow of the Iron Curtain. The Austrian-Hungarian Border between 1948 and 1965

**11:30 – 11:45 coffee break**

**11:45 – 13:15 PANEL II: Case study 2: Ukraine and Beyond**

**Chair:** Peter Ruggenthaler (LBI for Research on Consequences of War)

**Bernhard Escherich** (Independent scholar): From need to know to ability to generate: Generative AI and the future of intelligence history research on borders and spheres of influences

**Thomas Boghardt** (U.S. Army Center of Military History): Project AERODYNAMIC. CIA covert Operations in Ukraine, 1949-1953

**Ivo Juurvee** (International Centre for Defense and Security): GRU Tactical PSYOPS in Ukraine – do they play by Soviet handbook?

**David Jaklin** (University of Graz): The paramilitary – intelligence nexus of Group Wagner and its role in the war in Ukraine

**13:15 – 14:30 lunch break**

**14:30 – 16:00 PANEL III: Cross-border operations. International Intelligence Cooperation and Rivalry**

**Chair:** Wolfgang Krieger (University of Marburg)

**Mark Kramer** (Harvard University): Soviet Intelligence Operations in the NATO-Warsaw Pact Border Regions

**Jacek Tebinka** (University of Gdansk): Rumours about Soviet attack on Romania in November 1968. Intelligence and decision making during the Cold War

**Nadia Boyadjieva** (Institute for Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences / Harvard University): Intelligence Operations in Balkan Border Regions during the Cold War

**Tilman Lüdke** (Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut): Across and Beyond Ideological Borders: The Org. Gehlen/ BND between Israel and the Arab States, 1945 – 1968

**16:00 – 16:15 coffee break**

**16:15 – 17:30 **PANEL IV: Border Guard units and Intelligence****

**Chair:** Charlotte Backerra (University of Göttingen)

**Yaacov Falkov** (Tel Aviv University): A Vital Contributor to the Country's National Security": Intelligence Activity of the Soviet Border Guard Forces, 1957-1991

**Agnes Jobst** (Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security): The Reconnaissance Department of the Hungarian Border Guard Force in the People's Republic of Hungary

**Paul Maddrell** (Loughborough University): The Stasi and the inner-German border, 1950-1989

**17:30 – 18:30 – Annual meeting IIHA (members only, there is a possibility to join IIHA during the conference)**

**19:00 - reception and dinner at the castle**

# 19TH OCTOBER CONFERENCE, DAY 2

CASTLE OF ST. MARTIN

09:00 – 10:30 **PANEL V: Intelligence-centred hubs during WWII and Cold War**

**Chair:** Bernd Schaefer (Woodrow Wilson Center)

**Thomas Riegler** (Austrian Center for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies): From „Shooting gallery“ to neutral ground: Cold War Vienna as a contested sphere of influence and intelligence hub

**Adrian Hänni** (FernUni Schweiz; Donau-Universität Krems): Switzerland as an Intelligence Hub and Borderland from World War I to the Present

**Ali Dogan** (Otto-Suhr-Institute): The importance of East Berlin for Iraq's intelligence operations in Europe

**Tommy P. Christensen** (AOF Næstved & Susaalandet): A thin Blue line. The Baltic Sea as a border region in the Early Cold War

10:30 – 10:45 coffee break

10:45 – 12:00 **PANEL VI: Communist security apparatus and counter-intelligence**

**Chair:** Jan Goldman (The Citadel)

**Kristina Burinskaitė** (Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania): „Invisible“ war in Lithuania in 1944-1953: „Games“ of Soviet secret services and Lithuanian partisans

**Corina Snitar** (University of Glasgow): “Need to Know” during the 1956 crisis within the Soviet Block

**Paweł Jaworski** (University of Wrocław): "Stay particularly sharp". Surveillance of Baltic Sea border in Poland after WWII

**Przemysław Gasztold, Władysław Bułhak** (Institute of National Remembrance):  
Need to Know: Polish intelligence and crises in the Middle East during the Cold  
War

**12:15 – 13:15 lunch break**

**13:15 – 14:45 PANEL VII: “Shallow intelligence” and Counterintelligence**

**Chair:** Ivo Juurvee (International Centre for Defense and Security)

**Aleksandar Zivotic** (University of Belgrade): Intelligence agents, spies,  
saboteurs and security services. A „small war” on the Yugoslav-Albanian  
border (1948-1953)

**Barak Bouks** (Bar-Ilan University): Hezbollah's Terror Perpetrations Across  
the Israeli-Lebanese Border: Incursions, Rocket Launching & Construction  
of Tunnels

**Shlomo Shpiro** (International Intelligence History Association): The Cross  
Affair: Israeli Intelligence Early Cold War Cross-Border Operations

**Marek Hańderek** (Institute of National Remembrance): Crossing borders or  
building walls? Polish military intelligence under the cover of the Neutral  
Nations Supervisory Commission in South Korea 1953-1956

**14:45 – 15:00 coffee break**

## 15:00 – 16:30 **PANEL VIII: Cases and Methods**

Chair: **Anna Abelmann** (International Intelligence History Association)

**Kevin Riehle** (Brunel University London): Soviet Border Guard Defectors

**János Kemény** (University of Public Service): Intelligence Defectors in the Cold War: The Forgotten Case of Ernő Bernát

**Grzegorz Wołk** (Institute of National Remembrance): Polish marielitos? General Jaruzelski's failed emigration operation. The perspective of the secret services

**Tomasz Kozłowski** (Institute of National Remembrance): Open sesame! A secret operation of stealing American diplomatic cables by Polish counterintelligence: scale, consequences, analysis of the collection of stolen documents

**16:30 – 17:00** End of the conference and the presentation of the next conference venue and idea



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