

CALL FOR PAPERS

Wednesday 20 - Friday 22 November 2024

The Bletchley Park Trust and GCHQ invite submissions for papers to be presented at the inaugural National Intelligence History Conference (NIHC) in November 2024. The conference is jointly hosted by Bletchley Park Trust (BPT) and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

The conference will take place at the new Fellowship Auditorium and Block E Learning Centre at Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, UK, from the 20-22 November 2024.



Submissions for papers to be delivered at the conference are welcomed from all those with an interest in intelligence history. This includes current and former intelligence practitioners, established academics, junior and early career scholars, and private researchers.

Attendance at the conference is open to all who have an interest in intelligence history. Submissions are therefore particularly welcomed which cover subjects accessible to an interested non-academic audience, as well as academic and specialist topics. In addition to the plenary talks and panels, there will be a display of academic posters within the conference suite.

Bletchley Park Trust, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, MK3 6EB

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THEMES

The theme of the 2024 conference is 'People in Intelligence'.

Submissions are invited on topics including, but not limited to:

- History of intelligence organisations and operations from any historical period, and from any country.
- History of individuals or groups involved in intelligence. Personal stories and biographies (including those that explore diversity and cultural experiences).
- Cryptography, cryptanalysis and the history of SIGINT and COMINT.
- Human intelligence and espionage.
- Intelligence as represented in popular culture and literature, including fiction, documentary, TV and film.
- Public perceptions of intelligence practice and institutions.

Papers are also welcome on contemporary issues and events, but these should ideally be framed in a historical context. The theme of this conference is broader than just SIGINT, and submissions on all types of intelligence will be accepted and reviewed equally.

VENUE: Bletchley Park (The Fellowship Auditorium/Block E Learning Centre), Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB, UK



SUBMISSIONS

Delegates wishing to present at the conference or display a poster must provide a short synopsis (maximum of 500 words) of their topic, which could form the basis of a **20-minute presentation** or a **single A1-sized poster** at the event. This needs to be submitted, along with a short biography, by the deadline of **24 May 2024**, for formal review by the peer review panel.

All those wishing to speak or display a poster will be notified by **1 July 2024** of whether their submissions have been successful.

Please submit your synopsis with an accompanying short biography to NIHC@bletchleypark.org.uk and make it clear if you wish to speak, display a poster or either.

TIMETABLE

11 March 2024	Call for papers sent out
24 May 2024*	Deadline for submitting your 500-word synopsis and short bio by email
1 July 2024	Speakers and those displaying posters will be notified by this date
1 July 2024	Conference booking goes live at www.bletchleypark.org.uk/nihc
20 October 2024	Conference booking closes
20 – 22 November 2024	National Intelligence History Conference takes place

*We recognise the short window of time for submissions, but regret that we cannot accept submissions after 24 May 2024.

COSTS

	Standard delegate	Concessions (student/unwaged)
3-day delegate fee	£180.00	£120.00
1-day delegate fee	£80.00	£60.00
Poster submission only (if not attending conference)	£30.00	£20.00
Conference dinner (optional)	Costs available when booking goes live in July 2024	

The above costs are applicable to all those wishing to attend the conference. For clarity, there are no discounts or complimentary tickets available for speakers.

Delegate fee includes:

- admission to all conference sessions and plenary events;
- tea, coffee and refreshments during breaks on all days of the event;
- evening drinks reception on Wednesday 20 November for 3-day ticket holders and 1-day ticket holders for that day;
- buffet lunch on Thursday 21 November for 3-day ticket holders and 1-day ticket holders for that day;
- buffet lunch on Friday 22 November for 3-day ticket holders and 1-day ticket holders for that day;
- admission to Bletchley Park (heritage site) during visitor hours (09.30 to 16.00).

Please note that conference rates do not include travel, local transport, accommodation, conference dinner or visas. There is no administration fee. All bookings must be via the booking page on the Bletchley Park website which will go live in July 2024.

Bursaries



To make the NIHC as accessible as possible, and in celebration of its 20th anniversary in 2024, the [Oxford Intelligence Group](#) (OIG), supported by Nuffield College, Oxford, is awarding a number of bursaries to postgraduate students who are presenting at the NIHC.

The OIG Bursaries will contribute towards UK travel and accommodation expenses, and will fully cover the 3-day or 1-day conference delegate fee (not including the conference dinner). Non-UK based applicants will need to demonstrate that they are able to cover their additional travel costs independently.

If you wish to apply for an OIG Bursary, please indicate this on your submission and your details will be shared with the Oxford Intelligence Group who will contact you direct. The OIG will assess all applications and you will be notified of the outcome once speakers have been selected, and in time to meet the deadline for conference registration.

ACCOMMODATION

There are plenty of accommodation options in Bletchley, Milton Keynes and the local area. The NIHC will be providing a conference accommodation package with reduced rates at a prominent hotel in Bletchley/Milton Keynes. Details of this reduced rate will be included on our website booking page which will go live in July 2024 when speakers are invited, and the provisional programme published.

PRIVACY

Please note: By sending us your submission, you consent for the personal information you provide us to be shared with the members of the peer review panel for the purposes of speaker selection only. The peer review panel comprises Bletchley Park staff as well as academics and specialists from a variety of organisations and institutions. Bletchley Park Trust will use your personal information to contact you about the NIHC 2024.

The information you send us for your submission will be stored within Bletchley Park Trust's systems for a period of up to 12 months. Further information about how Bletchley Park processes personal data can be found in our [privacy policy](#).

If you have indicated you would like to apply for a bursary, your name, submission, short biography and email address will be shared with the Oxford Intelligence Group who will contact you directly via email with more information.

FAQ

Do I have to be presenting a paper in order to attend?

No. The NIHC will bring together specialists, academics, researchers and all those who have an interest in intelligence history. It's an excellent networking and learning opportunity within such a broad and positive community. Therefore, you don't have to be presenting a paper to attend – all are welcome. Conference registration and booking will open in July 2024 once speakers have been notified and the provisional programme published.

Can I present virtually rather than in-person?

This in-person conference will take place at Bletchley Park, a historically significant location and now a vibrant heritage attraction. It will not be live-streamed and there is no hybrid option, nor can we accept presentations delivered virtually rather than in-person. The keynote lecture will be available as an online event, details of which will be available on the conference booking page from July 2024. For more Bletchley Park history online, please follow our [Youtube channel](#) for Bletchley Park-related videos and the [Bletchley Park Podcast](#) for audio content updated monthly.

Can I submit a proposal for an individual paper presentation longer than 20 minutes?

No. All presentations at the conference, other than the plenary and keynote lectures which will be delivered by invitation, are for 20-minute presentations as part of panels.

What is the review process and who are the peer review panel?

Once the paper submission process has closed on 24 May 2024, the submissions will be peer reviewed by the NIHC team. The peer reviewers will build conference panels based on themes or topics that develop iteratively within the proposal review process. Panels may share a focus or be interdisciplinary. Selection will primarily be based on academic quality. Where paper submissions are unsuccessful, the panel may still nominate the applicant for a place in the poster display. The peer review panel is comprised of representatives from Bletchley Park Trust and GCHQ, as well as invited UK university academics and subject-matter specialists.