EMPIRE IN PERIL:
INVASION-SCARES AND POPULAR POLITICS IN BRITAIN, 1890-1914

PUBLIC LECTURE & INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP
Queen Mary, University of London, 14-15 November 2013
Mile End Road, London E1 4NS

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 14 November (SCR, 4th floor, Arts Two)

1-1.30pm  Introduction:
Kim Wagner (QM) & Patrick Longson (Bham & QM)

1.30-2.30pm  Defending the Realm (1):
Matthew Seligmann (Brunel):
The Admiralty and War Office views on the possibility of an invasion of the British Isles

Richard Dunley (KCL):
Fighting the Enemy Within: Political Intrigue and Inter-Service Rivalry in the Invasion Debates, 1903-5

2.30-3pm  Coffee break

3-4pm  Defending the Realm (2):
Pete Mills (Oxford Brookes):
Public Secrecy and Accountability: the Secret Service Fund and the gentleman-spy, c.1870-1914

Harry Wood (Liverpool):
“A nation in arms is coming, and a nation at play is to meet them”: representations of compulsory military service in Edwardian Invasion-scare fiction, 1899-1914

5-7pm  Public lecture (Lecture Theatre, Arts One):
Nicholas Hiley (Kent):
Vernon Kell’s perfect nightmare: The German invasion of Britain in 1914

7-8pm  Reception at Queen Mary (SCR, 4th floor, Arts Two)

8pm  Workshop dinner
FRIDAY, 15 November (SCR, 4th floor, Arts Two)

9.30-10am  
*Introduction:*
Bernard Porter (Newcastle):  
*Britain and the Empire*

10-11.30  
*The Empire Strikes Back:*
Patrick Longson (Bham & QM):  
*Before the German Menace: British Imperial Anxieties pre-1896*
Robert Brown (Bham):  
*Writing Scripts of Anxiety: martial races, invasion scares, and the crafting of a ‘yellow peril’ discourse in British and Australian Imperial culture, 1890-1914*
Ailise Bulfin (Trinity College Dublin):  
*The ‘Yellow Peril’: Far Eastern crises and oriental invasion scares*

11.30-11.45  
*Coffee break*

11.45-13.15  
*Popular Culture & Popular Politics*
Richard Scully (University of New England, AU):  
*British Women Authors and the ‘German Question’ before 1914*
Andrew Frayn (De Montfort):  
*Pre-war Disenchantments: Fears of Invasion novels, 1900-14*
Ian Hopper (Brandeis, US):  
*‘Scaremongering’ and the Indifferent Public*

13.15-14.15  
*Lunch*

14.15-15.15  
*The Terror from Above:*
Michael Paris (UCLAN):  
*Aerial Invasions*
Brett Holman (University of New England, AU):  
*‘What are the Germans up to?’ The British phantom airship scare of 1913*

15.15-15.30  
*Coffee break*

15.30-16.30  
*Key-note and plenary:*
Michael Matin (Warren Wilson College, US):  
*The 1913 Airship Panic and the Cultivation of Fear*

(The workshop will take place in the SCR on the 4th floor of Arts Two, and the public lecture in the Lecture Theatre of Arts One, both at Queen Mary Mile End campus)