

CALL FOR PAPERS

Invasion to Integration

4-5 November University of Kent

British Attitudes towards Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

- Keynote lecture by Dr. Robert Saunders, QMUL
- Plenary panel chaired by Dr. James Ellison, QMUL

On 23 June the British people will vote in a referendum on the country's membership of the European Union, the latest chapter of a dialogue which has been characterised by competing visions of what 'Europe' is to Britain: 'friend' or 'foe'. This dynamic is one which has pervaded British perceptions of mainland Europe throughout the modern era, from fears of invasion and hopes of internationalism during the nineteenth century, through the world wars, and into membership of the EEC in 1973. Both centuries also saw growing involvement with Europe on a personal level, as improved communications and travel increasingly allowed Britons to view the countries and cultures of Continent through the media or 'invasions' of their own, as soldiers, traders or tourists. Throughout, British perceptions of the Continent have experienced both profound change, and remarkable continuity.

This conference seeks to offer a long view of Britain's relationship with the Continent, focusing on how Britons perceived and understood their mainland neighbours. This topic can be addressed from either the elite or popular perspective, and can deal with the idea of Europe as a whole or British views of individual European countries.

Papers might discuss, but are not limited to:

- Attitudes towards European arts and culture
- British tourists and/or merchants in Europe
- Perceptions of European societies or political systems
- Military threats or interventions
- Integrationist movements/British nationalism
- Anglo-European cooperation (cultural, economic or diplomatic)
- Imperial vs. European perspectives

Please submit abstracts of **c.300 words** with a short biography by **29 July 2016** to Adam Rolewicz (A.X.Rolewicz@kent.ac.uk) or Peter Keeling (P.M.Keeling@kent.ac.uk)