

## Programme

**CONCEPTS OF FREEDOM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN GREAT BRITAIN IN HISTORICAL COMPARISON** (German Association for British Studies, Institute for Social Movements/ Ruhr-University of Bochum – *Annual Conference 2026 / Haus der Geschichte des Ruhrgebiets, Clemensstr. 17-19, 44789 Bochum, Germany*)



*Thursday, July 16, 2026*

9:00 – 9:30 *Arrival and registration*

9:30 – 9:45 *Welcoming speeches:* Stefan Berger (Bochum), Marius Guderjan (Berlin)

9:45 – 10:30: *Introduction*

Norbert Fabian (Bochum), The early English Revolution of 1381 and the European History of Freedom and Emancipation

*Chair:* Stefan Berger (Bochum)

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:00 *First keynote lecture:*

Nicholas Vincent (East Anglia), The Magna Carta of 1215 and the History of Liberty

*Chair:* Birgit Bublies-Godau (Bochum)

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

13:00 – 14:00 *Second keynote lecture:*

Lyndal Roper (Oxford), For liberty! The German Peasant's War of 1525 and the Twelve Articles.

*Chair:* Stefan Berger (Bochum)

14:00 – 15:30 *Panel 1: Conceptualising Liberty*

- Andrew Wells (Kiel), Freedom's Parish: Liberty in the Urban British Atlantic, 1660-1760

- Brigitta Schvéd (Budapest), Public Opinion, Political Media, and the Language of Freedom: Conceptualising Liberty and the Balance of Power in Early Eighteenth-Century British and Habsburg Contexts

*Chair:* Mathis Gronau (Bochum)

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 – 17:00 *Third keynote lecture:*

Alan S. Kahan (Paris), 'Freedom from Fear'. Transatlantic Concepts of Liberalism

*Chair:* Mathis Gronau (Bochum)

17:00 – 18:30 *Panel 2: Socialism and Social Movements in Europe*

- Jan de Graaf (Bochum), A Model for All? European Responses to Labour's 1945 Victory

- Alberto Pantaloni (Turin), Social Movements and Struggles in Britain and Italy at the End of the 'Golden Age': a Comparative Study

*Chair:* Stefan Berger (Bochum)

19:30 *Conference dinner*

*Friday, July 17, 2026*

9:00 – 10:30 *Panel 3: Political Debates on Freedom, Democracy, and Revolution in the 'Long' 19<sup>th</sup> century*

- Vicente Pons Marti (Frankfurt), Freedom, Parties, and Opposition. Political Party Debates in Britain from the French Revolution to the Reform Act of 1868

- Birgit Bublies-Godau (Bochum), The European Revolution of 1848/49 and the debate on Christopher Clark, 'Revolutionary Spring. Fighting for a New World'

*Chair:* Norbert Fabian

10:30 – 11:00: *Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30 *Panel 4: Modern Conservatism and Democracy in the 'short' 20<sup>th</sup> century*

- Christina Sigrid Schlaich (Freiburg), The Politics of "Freedom" in the Making of Democratic Order: Stanley Baldwin and Transnational Public Spheres, c. 1922–1939

- Edmund Neill (London), Conservatism' Adaption to Democracy in Mid-Twentieth Century Britain

*Chair:* Mathis Gronau

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 – 15:00 *Round table and open final discussion: Theories and Concepts of Freedom and Revolution, Democracy and Reform - Comparisons and Responsible Learning from History*

Lyndal Roper, Norbert Fabian, Mathis Gronau, Birgit Bublies-Godau

*Chair:* Marius Guderjan (Berlin)