



Call for Papers: 2026 LSE/GWU/UCSB Cold War Studies International History Graduate Student Conference

Event Date:

Thursday 7 May 2026 to Saturday 9 May 2026

Event Location:

London School of Economics and Political Science

Event Contacts:

Conference Convener – Prof Piers Ludlow

Administrative Assistant – Dr Jeff Hawn

cwsih.gradconference.2026@gmail.com

The Cold War Studies Project at the Department of International History of the London School of Economics and Political Science along with the George Washington University Cold War Group (GWCW), the Center for Cold War Studies and International History (CCWS) of the University of California at Santa Barbara are pleased to announce their 2026 International Graduate Student Conference on the Cold War, to take place at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Thursday 7 May to Saturday 9 May 2026.

The conference is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to present papers and receive critical feedback from peers and experts in the field. We encourage submissions by graduate students working on any aspect of the Cold War, broadly defined. Of particular interest are papers that employ newly available primary sources or non-traditional methodologies.

To be considered, each prospective participant should submit a two-page proposal and a brief academic c.v. (in Word or pdf format) to Jeff Hawn at:

cwsih.gradconference.2026@gmail.com by Friday February 27, 2026.

Notification of acceptance will occur by Friday 6 March 2026.

Successful applicants will be expected to email their papers (no longer than 8000 words excluding footnotes and bibliography) by **Friday 10 April 2026**.

Students should **not** apply to the conference unless they are prepared, upon admission, to attend the conference for its full substantive duration.

The event will begin with a welcoming reception in the evening on Thursday 7 May, with two full conference days on Friday 8 May, and Saturday 9 May, concluding in the early evening of Saturday. Student participants are expected to be present all day on Friday and Saturday. All applicants should indicate whether or not travel to London is feasible in their initial email.

The author of the strongest paper will be awarded the Saki Ruth Dockrill Memorial Prize of £100 to be spent on books in any form. The winner will also have an opportunity to publish his or her article in the journal *Cold War History*. For further information, please contact Jeff Hawn at the aforementioned e-mail address.

The chairs and commentators of the conference sessions will be prominent faculty members from LSE, GWU, UCSB, and elsewhere. Affordable accommodation will be available near LSE campus and covered by the programme but travel to London is at the students' expense. Students are advised to check with department bursaries to cover travel expenses.

In 2003, UCSB and GWU first joined their separate spring conferences, and two years later LSE became a co-sponsor. The three cold war centres now hold a jointly sponsored conference each year, alternating among the three campuses.

For more information on our three programmes, you may visit their respective websites:

<http://www.history.ucsb.edu/ccws/> for CCWS

<https://ieres.elliott.gwu.edu/programs/gw-cold-war-group/> for GWCW

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/International-History/cold-war-studies> for LSE