



Sidney Sussex College | MCR

Graduate Seminar Series

1st December – 18:00 – Mong Hall

Darren O' Byrne

Faculty of History

The Outsiders: Political Civil Servants and the German Administration under Nazism

This paper examines the role of ideology in the German Administration under Nazism. It does so by looking at the personal biographies and professional experiences of some of the Third Reich's leading political civil servants. After 1933, the top administrative posts in Germany were shared between career civil servants (Insiders) who had worked their way up through the ranks of the administration, and Nazi Outsiders who were appointed solely on the basis of their previous ties with the Party. By exploring the levels at which both Insiders and Outsiders interacted with National Socialism before and after 1933, the paper will show that there were varying levels of ideological commitment among the Third Reich's leading civil servants, and suggests that we may need to look beyond ideology when explaining why the German Ministerial Bureaucracy "worked towards the Führer" and implemented the regime's racist and ideological agenda.

Muzaffer Kaser

Department of Psychiatry

Tackling the Black Dog: On Brain and Depression

Depression is one of the leading causes of disability worldwide in terms of years lost due to illness. About a third of patients continue to experience symptoms despite full treatment with antidepressant medication. Another challenge regarding depression is the impact of impaired cognitive functions (i.e. memory, attention, planning etc.) which tend to persist even after recovery. Growing evidence from brain research has indicated the possible causes of those problems. Neuroscience-based approaches such as neurocognitive testing could provide insight and potentially novel treatment options for depression. I will be giving an overview of brain research into depression and my research on the use of Modafinil to tackle cognitive problems associated with depression.