

CALL FOR PAPERS

Wednesday 14 - Friday 16 October 2026

The Bletchley Park Trust and GCHQ invite submissions for papers to be presented at the National Intelligence History Conference (NIHC) in October 2026. The conference is jointly hosted by Bletchley Park Trust (BPT) and the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

The conference will take place at the Fellowship Auditorium and Block E Learning Centre at Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, UK, from the 14 – 16 October 2026.



Submissions for papers to be delivered at the conference are welcomed from all those with an interest in intelligence history. This includes current and former intelligence practitioners, established academics, junior and early career scholars, and private researchers, as well as interested members of the public.

Submissions are therefore particularly welcomed which cover subjects accessible to an interested non-academic audience, as well as academic and specialist topics. In addition to the plenary talks and panels, submissions are also invited of academic posters for display within the conference suite.

Bletchley Park Trust, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes, MK3 6EB

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THEMES

The theme of the 2026 conference is '**International Collaboration and Co-operation**'.

Before, and during, World War Two Bletchley Park's close working relationships with personnel from the USA, Poland and France had substantial and significant effects in the intelligence war against the Axis powers. From international agencies to individuals, the interconnectedness of intelligence can have a global reach. This conference dives into the details of what international relationships, of all kinds, have brought to intelligence successes and failures. Submissions are invited on topics including, but not limited to:

- International collaboration, unsanctioned cooperation and inter-agency communication.
- Intelligence-sharing, isolation and international boundaries.
- Nationality, national identity and intelligence.
- Signals intelligence, HUMINT, COMINT, espionage and criminal intelligence.
- Intelligence as represented in popular culture and literature, including fiction, documentary, TV and film.
- Public perceptions of intelligence practice and institutions.

Papers are also welcome on contemporary issues and events, but these should ideally be framed in a historical context. The theme of this conference is broader than just SIGINT, and submissions on all types of intelligence will be accepted and reviewed equally.

VENUE: Bletchley Park (The Fellowship Auditorium/Block E Learning Centre), Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB, UK



SUBMISSIONS

Delegates wishing to present at the conference or display a poster must provide a short synopsis (maximum of 500 words) of their topic, which could form the basis of a **20-minute presentation** or a **single A1-sized poster** at the event. This needs to be submitted, along with a short biography, by the deadline of **Thursday 29 January 2026**, for consideration for acceptance by the conference peer review panel.

All those wishing to speak or display a poster will be notified by **5 March 2026** of whether their submissions have been successful.

The *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence* will be producing a special conference edition of selected NIHC 2026 papers in 2027. If you would like your submission to be included for consideration for this publication, please make this clear along with your submission, and you will be sent details of the required format, style and timetable for publication after the conference (fully formatted papers will be submitted to the IJIC by 29 January 2027 for publication later in the year).

Please submit your synopsis with an accompanying short biography to NIHC@bletchleypark.org.uk and make it clear if you wish to speak, display a poster or either.

TIMETABLE

20 October 2025	Call for papers sent out
29 January 2026	Deadline for submitting your 500-word synopsis and short bio by email to NIHC@bletchleypark.org.uk
5 March 2026	Speakers and those displaying posters will be notified by this date
March 2026	Conference booking goes live at www.bletchleypark.org.uk/nihc
20 September 2026	Conference booking closes
14 – 16 October 2026	National Intelligence History Conference takes place
After the conference	The IJIC will share details of format, style etc for those speakers who would like to submit papers by Jan 2027 for consideration.

COSTS

	Standard delegate	Student/unwaged
3-day delegate fee	£225.00	£195.00
1-day delegate fee	£100.00	£80.00
Conference dinner (optional)	Costs available when booking goes live in March 2026	

The above costs are applicable to all those wishing to attend the conference. For clarity, there are no discounts or complimentary tickets available for speakers.

Delegate fee includes:

- admission to all conference sessions and plenary events;
- tea, coffee and refreshments during breaks on all days of the event;
- evening drinks reception on Day 1 for 3-day ticket holders and 1-day ticket holders for that day;
- buffet lunch on all days for 3-day ticket holders and 1-day ticket holders for that day;
- admission to Bletchley Park (heritage site) during visitor hours (09.30 to 17.00).

Please note: Conference rates do not include accommodation, travel, visas, or the conference dinner. There is no administration fee. All bookings must be made via the booking page on the Bletchley Park website, which will go live in March 2026.

ACCOMMODATION

A preferential bed-and-breakfast rate for NIHC delegates is being negotiated with a local hotel and the NIHC team is currently working on transportation options to and from Bletchley Park.

Further information will be provided before tickets go on sale in March 2026. We recommend not booking accommodation until you have secured your conference ticket, and have received confirmed, updated information regarding accommodation and transport.

PRIVACY

Please note: By sending us your submission, you consent for the personal information you provide us to be shared with the members of the peer review panel for the purposes of speaker selection only. The peer review panel comprises Bletchley Park staff as well as academics and specialists from a variety of organisations and institutions. Bletchley Park Trust will use your personal information to contact you about the NIHC 2026. Should speakers wish to be considered for publication in the *IJIC*, their personal information will be shared with the editorial team of that publication. Further information about how Bletchley Park processes personal data can be found in our [privacy policy](#).

FAQ

Do I have to be presenting a paper in order to attend?

No. The NIHC will bring together specialists, academics, researchers and all those who have an interest in intelligence history. It's an excellent networking and learning opportunity within such a broad and positive community. Therefore, you don't have to be presenting a paper to attend – all are welcome. Conference registration and booking will open in March 2026 once speakers have been notified and the provisional programme published.

Can I present virtually rather than in-person?

This in-person conference will take place at Bletchley Park, a historically significant location and now a vibrant heritage attraction. It will not be live-streamed and there is no hybrid option, nor can we accept presentations delivered virtually rather than in-person.

Can I submit a proposal for an individual paper presentation longer than 20 minutes?

No. All presentations at the conference, other than the plenary and keynote lectures which will be delivered by invitation, are for 20-minute presentations as part of panels.

What is the review process and who are the peer review panel?

Once the paper submission process has closed on 29 January 2026, the submissions will be peer reviewed by the NIHC team. The peer reviewers will build conference panels based on themes or topics that develop iteratively within the proposal review process.

Panels may share a focus or be interdisciplinary. Selection will primarily be based on academic quality. Where paper submissions are unsuccessful, the panel may still nominate the applicant for a place in the poster display. The peer review panel is comprised of representatives from Bletchley Park Trust and GCHQ, as well as invited UK university academics and subject-matter specialists.

Where can I find out more information or get updates?

The most up-to-date information will always be on the conference website at www.bletchleypark.org.uk/nihc - please keep checking back for updates.
