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Graduate Workshop

Charisma & political leadership in European history: the Good, the Bad & the Ugly ?

21st – 23rd April 2016

Co-hosted with Maison Française d'Oxford, Oxford University



Among many attributes cited for bad leadership is *charisma*. This enigmatic quality will be just one of the many features that we will aim to explore in this workshop, by dissecting the concept and by analysis the leadership abilities of a range of European leaders, from Augustus in Ancient History to Napoleon and Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher in modern times, not forgetting such as Fascist or Communist leaders as Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin. In Greek *charisma* means a divine gift, a gift of grace, and Aristotle went on to write about a leader's values (ethos), passion (pathos) and arguments (logos). Today's usage

seems to have drifted away from this typology ? How do we interpret today the Weberian view of rising above the elite ? Moreover is charisma somehow innate or learnt, or manufactured and manipulated. Does charisma emerge from crises - Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses in Wittenberg, Queen Elizabeth I facing the Spanish Armada, or Churchill rallying the air force in 1940. This workshop takes place in the shadow of Blenheim Castle - home of Winston Churchill for whom charisma appears, at the end, to have essential and positive. **Questions discussed will include: *Is charisma always manufactured ? Is charisma necessary for successful democratic government ? Are charismatic leaders to be considered somewhat powerfully dangerous ? Is charisma often linked to crisis ? How best to explain charisma in non-democratic and democratic leaders ?***

As with all Europaeum activities, this event will be participatory and engaging, and will involve talks and lectures from expert academics and professionals as well as younger scholars, together with working groups and debates.

Speakers: Professor Archie Brown (*St. Antony's College, Oxford*), **Professor Nicolas Purcell** (*Brasenose College, Oxford*), **Professor Didier Georgakakis** (*Paris 1*), **Professor Michael Broers** (*Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford*), **Professor Peter Pulzer** (*All Souls, Oxford*) plus others from Leiden and Charles University

This workshop is aimed at doctoral or advanced graduates from the universities within the Europaeum network. All local costs will be covered (apart from travel). Applications in the form of a CV (max. 2 pages), one or two letters of recommendation, a letter of motivation, and a brief abstract of the proposed paper should go to the Europaeum Office. We are accepting applications now.