

Critical Understanding of Society Seminar Series

# BRITISH HOPES FOR THE SECURITY ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND BRITISH DISILLUSION BY 1948

By Dr. Edward Johnson

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 14:00- 15:30 Room E523**



Tea, coffee and cake will be provided

This seminar will look at the British ideas for the UN from 1942 onwards and the manner in which the British views coincided or differed from those of the Americans. The disillusion on the security role would be seen through:

1. The use of the veto in the Security Council and the expression of Cold War tensions in the Council from the start of the UN to the extent that by 1948 Bevin the British Foreign Secretary had given up on any idea of the UN being able to maintain security in the post war world.
2. The frustration with the role of the first UN Secretary General – Trygve Lie.
3. The failure of the permanent members of the Security Council to agree on the creation of a UN army through the Military Staff Committee and the implementation of Article 43 of the UN Charter.