



International Conference Gender Politics and War Welfare During World War One and Beyond

Funded by the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship-Programme and organised by the Subject Area for Cultural and Gender History (Institute of History, University of Graz)

9-10th December 2021

PROGRAMME





PROGRAMME

DAY 1

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Keynote Lecture I

Thursday,

9th Dec.

Holly Furneaux (Cardiff): 'The Brotherhood of Man'? Fraternisation, Gender, and Race

DAY 2

9:30 a.m.

Opening and Welcome Remarks

Friday,

10th Dec.

10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Section I - Round Table on Current Research Issues on Gender and War

with Alison S. Fell (Liverpool), Susan Grayzel (Utah), Christa Hämmerle (Vienna), Jessica Meyer (Leeds) and Ingrid Sharp (Leeds)

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch Break





1:00 - 2:30 p.m. **Section II - Intersectional Perspectives on War Welfare**

Heidrun Zettelbauer (Graz): Gender and Nation in Voluntary War Welfare Politics (1912-1916)

Viktoria Wind (Graz): Caring Masculinities in k.(u.)k. Military Sanitation Service

Hilary Buxton (Ohio): Communal Care. Colonial Debility and Veteran Welfare in Interwar South Asia

2:30 - 3:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. **Section III - Feminist Critiques of Humanitarian Aid**

Ingrid Sharp (Leeds) and Chantal Sullivan-Thomsett (Leeds): Beyond Humanitarian Aid. Feminist Foreign Policy after World War One.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. **Keynote Lecture II**

Cynthia Enloe (Worcester, MA): War Wounded: Where are the Women?

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. **Concluding Remarks**





ABSTRACTS

AND

BIOGRAPHIES



Keynote Lecture I

Chair: Heidrun Zettelbauer

Holly Furneaux (Cardiff)

'The Brotherhood of Man'? Fraternisation, Gender, and Race

A German and a British soldier lean in towards one another, their hands outstretched as they reach for a handshake; a Turkish soldier carries a wounded British enemy aloft in his arms; a Confederate sergeant holds the hand of a Unionist soldier as he supports his head and helps him to a drink of water. These moments of care and friendship between military enemies are cast in stone, bronze and fibre-glass, monuments to geographically, historically and politically various narratives of fraternisation. They embody the stories we want to tell about moments of compassion within war violence in the aftermath of conflict, and point to the emotional and political contradictions and complexities of enemy encounters with which this paper is concerned.

Claiming forms of international and national unity, many of these monuments appeal to the brotherhood of man. In this paper I consider the radical cosmopolitan possibilities of fraternisation and its limits. I look at the gendered and racial exclusions in narratives of compassionate encounter with the enemy in literature and life writing in the late nineteenth century and First World War. I ask how far celebrations of fraternisation can underpin narratives of exceptionalism, as nations seek to position themselves as uniquely compassionate in their ways of war.

Holly Furneaux is a Professor of Literature at Cardiff University. She currently leads the AHRC project 'Strange Meetings: Enemy Encounters 1800-2020'. This explores emotional and material exchanges across sides in literature and life-writing with attention to truces, battle aftermath, and prisoners of war. See @EnemyEncounters for the latest. Her previous books include Military Men of Feeling: Emotion, Touch and Masculinity in the Crimean War (2016) and Queer Dickens: Erotics, Families, Masculinities (2009).





Section I - Round Table

Chair: Ingrid Sharp (Leeds)

with Alison S. Fell (Liverpool), Susan Grayzel (Utah), Christa Hämmerle (Vienna),
Jessica Meyer (Leeds)

Current Issues on Gender and War

This round table brings together a panel of leading international scholars of gender and warfare.

Together they will reflect on recent trends in WW1 scholarship and discuss emerging areas of interest within and beyond national contexts.

These will include:

- the intersections between Public History and academic scholarship during the recent WW1 Centenary 2014-2018. Which narratives around gender and warfare influenced and expanded public understanding of events, which persistent narratives were difficult to challenge?
- how the assumptions about gender norms played out in the historical narratives around medical care and welfare work during and after the war. How did the experiences of wartime care challenge and reinforce our understandings of masculinities and femininities, and can these include the vital, yet often overlooked, paramedic and medical support work carried out by men who were not accredited doctors? What opportunities were there for women to carve out public identities as 'carers', which, while aligned to dominant gender norms, could give them limited access to political, cultural or professional networks during the interwar period?
- the ways in which "justice" as well as "force" figured in wartime and post-war international feminist rhetoric and action in terms of helping women face the traumas of wartime and postwar (sexual) violence.
- what the introduction of the term "home front" (and its equivalents) during the war meant for the erasure of those who lived in "homes" where the war actively raged.





Section I - Round Table

Alison S. Fell is Professor of Cultural History and Dean of the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures at the University of Liverpool. She has published widely on women and the First World War, including her most recent book *Women as Veterans in Britain and France after the First World War* (Cambridge UP, 2018), and several chapters and articles on nurses. She is currently writing a book entitled *Women Warriors: The Cultural Politics of Armed Women 1870-1945* and completing an article on nursing enemy soldiers in the First World War.

Susan R. Grayzel is Professor of History at Utah State University, whose publications include *Women's Identities at War: Gender, Motherhood, and Politics in Britain and France during the First World War* (1999), *Women and the First World War* (2002), and the co-edited volume *Gender and the Great War*. Her latest book, *The Age of the Gas Mask: How British Civilians Faced the Terrors of Total War, which examines the civilian gas mask to reveal how the state and individuals responded to the first weapons of mass destruction, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.*

Christa Hämmerle is a.o. Univ. Prof. for History at the University of Vienna. She is co-founder and managing editor of *L'Homme. European Journal of Feminist History* and director of the the Collection of Women's Personal Papers (*Sammlung Frauennachlässe*). Additionally, she is involved in numerous other projects and activities, especially in the fields of Women's and Gender History, Peace History and New Military History. Her international research stays include a period as visiting scientist at the Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development/History of Emotions in Berlin. Her main foci in teaching and research are in 19th and 20th century history, including the Austro-Hungarian Army and the late Habsburg monarchy, as well as the First World War. In relation to Gender and Women's History her interests also include Masculinities, Life Writing, Social History and History of Emotions, with a focus on love.

Selected publications: Heimat/Front. Geschlechtergeschichte/n des Ersten Weltkriegs in Österreich-Ungarn, Wien/Köln/Weimar 2014; „Ganze Männer“? Gesellschaft, Geschlecht und Allgemeine Wehrpflicht in Österreich-Ungarn (1868–1914), Frankfurt/New York (forthcoming March 2022).





Section I - Round Table

Jessica Meyer is Associate Professor of Modern British History at the University of Leeds with research interests at the intersection of the histories of gender, medicine, and the First World War. Her monograph, *An Equal Burden: The Men of the Royal Army Medical Corps in the First World War* was published by OUP in 2019. Between 2015 and 2020 she led the European Research Council-funded *Men, Women and Care* project, looking at the gendering of formal and informal caregiving provided to British disabled ex-servicemen of the First World War. She currently serves as president of the International Society for First World War Studies.

Ingrid Sharp is Professor of German Cultural and Gender History in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies at the University of Leeds. She is currently Chair of Women in German Studies and Senior Elisabeth-List-Fellow at the University of Graz for the project *War, Welfare and Gender Politics in the First World War in Local and Global Dimensions*. Her research interests include women's anti-war and revolutionary activism in Germany during and after the First World War, and her most recent publication (with Corinne Painter) *Women of Aktion: Performance, Gender and the German Revolution of 1918* was published in *Feminist German Studies* in 2021.





Section II - Intersectional Perspectives on War Welfare

Chair: Jessica Meyer (Leeds)

Heidrun Zettelbauer (Graz)

Gender and Nation in Voluntary War Welfare Politics (1912-1916)

Patriotic and German-Nationalist female activists in the Habsburg crown land of Styria contributed to war-welfare to a high extent on a material and ideological level during WWI. Taking this multi-ethnic and multi-language regional context as a case study, I deal with the question, how war requirements addressed conservative and right-wing women in war-welfare and how war-supporting female activists were integrated respectively integrated themselves into war-welfare politics.

I concentrate on the period from 1912 onwards, when the Styrian governor initiated the regional development of medical services in case of a future war, explicitly addressing voluntary female nursing personnel. It ends with the analysis of the highly disputed process of excluding voluntary female nurses from convalescent homes and military hospitals in 1916, when the military reconstructed fundamentally local war welfare organisations.

My case study will explore the mobilisation and the process of (self-)organisation of conservative, patriotic and German-Nationalist women's societies for war purposes. The broader context of my paper is my research interest in a dichotomous gendered setting, which inevitably appears to be inscribed into contemporary war welfare rhetoric: a masculine "power to harm" and a "vulnerability" respectively "power of healing", both understood to be female.

Heidrun Zettelbauer is Assoc. Prof. at the Institute of History and head of the subject area for Cultural- and Gender History (Graz University). She is editorial board member of L'Homme. European Journal of Feminist History (V&R) and Zeitgeschichte (Vienna University Press). Her research foci are on gender in Modern History, nationalism, auto/biography, body history and museology. Currently, she is project leader of and senior researcher in the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship-Programme War Welfare and Gender Politics in the First World War in Local and Global Dimensions. Her previous books on the topic include e.g. 1914/18 – revisited (2018) [with C. Hämmerle/I. Sharp] or the essays Vergeschlechtlichte Erinnerungskulturen im Kontext von 1914/18 (2019); Das fragile Geschlecht der Kriegsheldin. Diskursivierungen weiblicher Heilungs- und Verletzungsmacht im Ersten Weltkrieg (2018) or Krankenschwestern im Ersten Weltkrieg. Zwischen gesellschaftlichen Normvorstellungen und Gewalterfahrungen (2015).





Section II - Intersectional Perspectives on War Welfare

Viktorija Wind (Graz)

Caring Masculinities in k.(u.)k. Military Sanitation Service

Ideal conceptions of hegemonic gender images are and always were impossible to reach. Gender considered as performed activity signifies that individuals reproduce, undermine, adapt, and reject (hegemonic) conceptions of gender according to the situation, its conditions, and their scopes of action. In the context of military health care during the First World War this heterogeneity and fragility of hegemonic gender conceptions became clearly visible. In many cases those soldiers could not be in accordance with the ideal of the heroic, combatant warrior. The occupation of soldiers in military sanitation service was characterised rather by saving and healing than killing. They served their duty as stretcher-bearers, male nurses, military chaplains, or medical officers and did care work in a broad sense.

Notwithstanding such social practices, contemporary gender hierarchy linked caring activities to femininity, in opposition to the combatant masculinity. That must raise the question of the meaning and/or influence of male care work for conceptions of (military) masculinity in k.(u.)k. Military Sanitation Service. Where in the gender hierarchy did military and media discourses position the (un-)manliness of sanitation soldiers? Which conceptions of masculinity appeared in field post letters, in diaries and autobiographic documents from military sanitation soldiers?

Viktorija Wind is PhD candidate at Institute of History at Graz University. She holds a bachelor and a master's degree in History from the University of Graz. Her research foci lie in the field of Military, War and Gender. Her PhD-Project addresses the heterogeneity and varieties of military gender concepts in the first half of the 20th century. Currently she is a Junior Fellow in the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship-Programme "War Welfare and Gender Politics in the First World War in Local and Global Dimensions", which is located at the subject area for Cultural- and Gender History (Institute of History, University of Graz). Selected publication: with K. M. Schmidlechner: Frauen in Graz 1918 bis 1938. In: HJdSG 2018, Bd. 48., 119-157.





Section II - Intersectional Perspectives on War Welfare

Hilary Buxton (Ohio)

Communal Care: Colonial Debility and Veteran Welfare in Interwar South Asia

In the interwar decades, over two hundred and fifty thousand South Asian veterans of the First World War sought various forms of care and welfare from the British colonial state. Doing so required both a dramatic expansion of a welfare system in the British Raj, as well as an ongoing negotiation between colonial providers and colonised recipients.

Military welfare in the interwar Raj was a profoundly communal affair: Fund administrators and local officers distributed awards not only to facilitate caretaking or self-sufficiency, but to enable disabled South Asian ex-servicemen and their families to retain gendered honour and perform their social duties. Through an examination of the pension and grant petitions sent to colonial welfare offices from the 1920s-30s, this paper illustrates how aid was directed toward social and familial issues, rather than personal care, pain, and need. Petitions further reveal the informal networks of support that formed the backbone of everyday veteran care, a scaffolding that often remained hidden from the government's sight. The vast majority of caretaking fell not to brothers and fellow soldiers, but to the wives, daughters, and other relatives who dedicated their lives to helping the disabled – often performing care while contending with their own forms of debility. Welfare appeals thus expose both the human networks of care that stepped in to nurse and tend to the thousands of disabled veterans, and the longstanding structures of colonial debility throughout the Raj.

Hilary Buxton is an Assistant Professor of History at Kenyon College. She is a historian of modern imperial Britain, with emphases on the history of medicine, race, gender and disability in the 19th and 20th centuries. She is currently at work on a project about the intersections of race and health in the First World War, which examines the experiences of wounded and disabled British West Indian and South Asian servicemen, their relationship with care-givers and the imperial state, and the lasting medical inequities produced out of this trans-colonial encounter.





Section III - Feminist Critiques of Humanitarian Aid

Chair: Susan R. Grayzel (Utah)

Chantal Sullivan-Thomsett (Leeds) and Ingrid Sharp (Leeds)

Beyond Humanitarian Aid. Feminist Foreign Policy after World War One

Established in 2016, the UK and Germany-based Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy operates as an international research, advocacy and consulting organisation. It works to challenge the foreign policy status quo which is 'rooted in patriarchal values and perpetuates systemic violence through capitalism, imperialism, and colonialism', promoting instead an intersectional feminist approach to foreign and security policy. Their view is that 'there can't be peace without feminism'. Their own 'quick history of feminist foreign policy' starts at 2014, when the Swedish government became the first to officially launch a Feminist Foreign Policy. While they do occasionally acknowledge the roots of a feminist foreign policy outside institutional structures, the account is brief, suggesting an academic movement since the 1980s and the 1915 Hague conference and women's peace pragmatism.

Specific criticism of humanitarian aid is not prominent within their publications and definitions, although the website does host blog posts from scholars criticising Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy introduced in 2017. Instead, the official Centre for Feminist Foreign Politics definition states that a Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) 'takes a step outside the black box approach of traditional foreign policy thinking and its focus on military force, violence and domination by offering an alternate and intersectional rethinking of security from the viewpoint of the most vulnerable'.

This joint paper will take this analysis as its starting point. It will look at past and present feminist approaches to building peace by bringing WILPF, which rejected humanitarian aid as the natural and sole duty of women after the First World War, into conversation with CFFP.

In so doing, we explore how these organisations refuse to 'clear up the mess left by men' and instead focus on political analysis, education and campaigning for a world order founded on principles to create the conditions for a sustained peace.





Section III - Feminist Critiques of Humanitarian Aid

Rooted in socialism and feminism, WILPF was committed to peace and justice, sought to identify and counter the causes of war, and was transnational in its thinking and structure.

Despite its commitment to global justice, WILPF was operating within the context of Imperial and Colonial mindsets, and we will consider whether its analysis privileged the existing racial and national hierarchies and to what extent the critical voices within and beyond WILPF's membership were taken into account.

Using the proceedings of the WILPF congresses and The Hague in 1915 and Zurich in 1919 and reports and blogposts produced by CFFP, we will bring into conversation past and present feminist understanding of the causes of war and the ways of preventing it.

Chantal Sullivan-Thomsett is a PhD Candidate in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies and the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds. She holds a bachelor's degree in German and Linguistics from the University of Leeds and a master's degree in Germanic Studies from the University of Sheffield. She is currently in the final stages of her thesis which explores the grassroots activism of German Green Party members and the contemporary party's engagement with protest action through her original framework of gentrified protest. Her research interests include green politics and activism, the role of history in contemporary political culture, and the interaction of institutionalised and extra-institutional politics.





Keynote Lecture II

Cynthia Enloe (Worcester, MA)

'War Wounded: Where are the Women?

Deaths. That's what counters count when they count the costs of any war. Wounds and the wounded? They usually get only passing mention. And those who care for the wounded? They are made almost invisible. Women, though, in reality are relied upon by governments to bind the physical and emotional wounds of male soldiers and of civilians who become "collateral damage." By taking women as (voluntary and involuntary) carers of wartime male wounded seriously, we all are more likely to accurately track the actual costs of war farther into the "post"-war future.

Cynthia Enloe is Research Professor in the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment, with affiliations with Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science, all at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Her career has included Fulbrights, guest professorships as well as lectures in various countries and at universities around the U.S. Professor Enloe's feminist teaching and research explore gendered politics in the nationally and internationally, with special attention to how women's labor is made cheap in globalized factories (especially sneaker factories) and how women's emotional and physical labor is used to support governments' war-waging policies—and how diverse women have tried to resist both of these efforts. Racial, class, sexual, ethnic and national identity dynamics, as well as ideas about femininities and masculinities, are common threads throughout her studies.



Conference attendance is ONLINE via BigBlueButton/UniMeet

Registration required.

Please contact genderhistory@uni-graz.at

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