

Empire, Armistice and Aftermath

The British Empire at the 'End' of the Great War

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

5-7 December 2018



Image: Enniskillen Bombing, 8 November 1987

Organisers

Professor Michael Walsh, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Associate Professor Andrekos Varnava, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia & De Montfort University, Leicester, UK

Dr Romain Fathi, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

Dr Margaret Hutchison, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, Australia

Key to Locations

All the 'a' panels will be held in VisCom Studio (ART 2-2a)

All the 'b' panels will be held in VisCom Lab/Classroom (ART 2-23b)

All the main events – i.e. welcome Address, keynotes, screenings, and closing panel will be held in 3D Projection Lab (ART 2-15)

Sessions

All keynote and plenary presenters will speak for 40-45 minutes and have 15-20 minutes for questions.

All other presenters will speak for 20 minutes and have 10 minutes for questions. Questions will be taken at the end of each paper or at the end of the panel, to be decided by the speakers and the chair.

All chairs are asked to strictly adhere to these times so that the conference runs on time.

Day 1: Wednesday 5 December 2018

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| 8:45-9:15: Registration | |
| 9:15-9:30: Welcome Addresses | |
| 9:30-10:30: Keynote Address I , chaired by Andrekos Varnava Panikos Panayi , 'The Elimination of the Germans from the British Empire at the End of the War' | |
| 10:30-11:00: Morning Tea Break | |
| 11:00-12:30: Panels 1a & 1b | |
| <i>Panel 1a: Imperial tensions (chaired by Panikos Panayi)</i> | <i>Panel 1b: Expansion and setbacks for the British Empire (chaired by Bridget Brooklyn)</i> |
| Andrekos Varnava, 'Arthur Crosfield and the Failure of the <i>Enosis</i> Movement in 1920: Liberal Philhellenism, Imperialism and the Greater War' | Bart Ziino, 'The many meanings of armistice: British and Dominion responses in 1918' |
| Samraghni Bonnerjee, "'Full responsibility and complete independence": Vera Brittain's Anti-imperialism and Support for the Indian Independence Movement' | John C. Mitcham, 'The Spoils of War: The Dominions and the Expansion of Empire' |
| Colin Milner, 'Robert Randolph Garran's Great War: an experience of nation, empire and the world' | Tom Sear, "'The True Story of Ah Q": British decline, American power, the rise of Chinese nationalism 1918-1923 and reflexive contemporary centenary commemoration in China' |
| 12:30-1:30: Lunch Break | |
| 1:30-3:00: Panels 2a & 2b | |
| <i>Panel 2a: Dynamics of commemoration (chaired by Hannah Mavdsley)</i> | <i>Panel 2b: Representing Australia (chaired by Bart Ziino)</i> |
| Romain Fathi, 'Commemorating the deeds of the Empire: a constant negotiation. The Imperial War Graves Commission in the aftermath of the Great War' | Matthew Haultain-Gall, "'The threshold of the British Empire": Accommodation, coercion and Australian commemoration at Ypres' |
| Santanu Das, 'The racial politics of centennial commemoration: Britain and its former colonies' | Julie Willis, 'The opportunity of war: architectural education and travel' |
| Margaret Hutchison, 'A Suitable Memorial: The legacy of the First World War official art collections in Australia, Canada and New Zealand' | Katti Williams, 'For King - or Country? Representing a distinctively Australian national identity in First World War memorial architecture' |
| 3:00-3:30: Afternoon Tea Break | |
| 3:30-5:00: Panels 3a & 3b | |
| <i>Panel 3a: India and its Contribution (chaired by Santanu Das)</i> | <i>Panel 3b: Reshaping Australian political culture (chaired by Romain Fathi)</i> |
| Lucy Moore, 'Jogendra Nath Sen: A Life' | Carolyn Holbrook, 'Nation, Empire and War: The Australian Debate over Imperial Federation' |
| Kate Imy, 'Soldiers of 1919: Sikhs and Muslims in India after World War One' | Laura Cook, "'Our Digger Prince": The political and cultural implications of the 1920 royal tour of Australia by Edward, Prince of Wales' |
| Rajarshi Mitra, 'Martial Bengalis in the Great War: The Story of Bengali Ambulance Corps and 49th Bengali Regiment' | Stephanie James, 'India and Ireland: the role of the Irish-Catholic Press in Engaging Irish-Australians with Developing Imperial Issues' |
| 5:00-7:30: Opening Reception Drinks and finger food, including book launches and announcements, and Documentary Screening of <i>Gallipoli Symphony</i> by Chris Latham (90 min) | |

Day 2: Thursday 6 December 2018

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| 9:30-11:00: Panels 4a & 4b | |
| <i>Panel 4a: Nationalism, colonialism and the war effort (chaired by Trevor Harris)</i> | <i>Panel 4b: Contesting Empire (chaired by Michael J.K. Walsh)</i> |
| Richard Scully, 'Trevelyan's War: An Historian and the Mediation of Wartime Experience on the Italian Front, 1915-1918' | Peter J. Yearwood, 'Germans in the British Colonial Empire 1914-19: Lagos and Tonga' |
| Bridget Brooklyn, 'Mary Booth's Nationalism at the end of the Great War' | Thomas Schmutz, 'From Jerusalem to Baku: The German-British rivalry for a new Middle East' |
| Thomas J. Kehoe, 'The formative influence of British colonialism on the American approach to military government occupation after World War One' | Hubert Faustmann, 'The Impact of the First World War on British Colonial Rule in Cyprus' |
| 11:00-11:30: Morning Tea Break | |
| 11:30-12:30: Special Presentation and Film Screening Michael J.K. Walsh , 'Commemorating a Fictional Irish Martyr on the Somme: Eric Bogle: Return to No Man's Land' and Screening of <i>Eric Bogle: Return to No Man's Land</i> | |
| 12:30-1:30: Lunch Break | |
| 1:30-3:30: 5a & 5b | |
| <i>Panel 5a: Repatriation and Resettlement (chaired by Andrekos Varnava)</i> | <i>Panel 5b: Dealing with the consequences of war (chaired by Margaret Hutchison)</i> |
| Trevor Harris, 'Repatriation and empire' | Daniel Marc Segesser, 'Empire, Food and Weather: A Historiographical Analysis' |
| Andonis Piperoglou, 'In favour of Empire, 1923: Greek refugees, land settlement, and imperial loyalty in Australia' | Hannah Mawdsley, '"It was said to be a disease from the war": Australia, Armistice, and the 1918-19 Influenza Pandemic' |
| Anna Maguire, 'The Colonial War Brides of the First World War' | Christeen Schoepf, 'What's in a Name? Memorialising the war work of five hundred women on the periphery of Empire: The Cheer-Up Society Honour Board' |
| | Alexia Moncrieff, 'Unworthy of Assistance: Imperial Pensioners, Family Breakdown and the State' |
| 3:30-4:00: Afternoon Tea Break | |
| 4:00-5:00: Keynote Address II , chaired by Margaret Hutchison Heather Streets-Salter , 'Opportunities Lost and Gained: Anticolonial Revolutionaries in Southeast Asia at the End of the Great War' | |
| 8:00: Conference Dinner Fullerton Hotel Singapore, 1 Fullerton Square | |

Day 3: Friday 7 December 2018

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| 9:30-11:00: Panels 6a & 6b | |
| <i>Panel 6a: Contest, Protest and Revolt (chaired by Heather Streets-Salter)</i> | <i>Panel 6b: The Arts and the aftermath of conflict (chaired by Chris Latham)</i> |
| Richard Smith, 'The Taranto Mutiny Revisited' | Andrew Harrison, 'If Not In This World: Memorialising historical narrative through music' |
| Jesse Tumblin, "'Unmixed Asiatic Descent': Conscription, Colonial Sovereignty, and the Aftermath of the Great War' | Ellen Whitton, 'Pleasant Remembrances and Foreboding Futures: Representations of Empire and Shifting Awareness in Britain's 1930s Genre Films' |
| Charles-Philippe Courtois, 'The aftermath of the Great War and the birth of modern Quebec nationalism, 1917-1923' | Anna Efstathiadou, 'Recruiting the nation: Australian propaganda posters from the First and the Second World Wars' |
| 11:00-11:30: Morning Tea Break | |
| 11:30-12:30: Keynote Address III , chaired by Michael J.K. Walsh Chris Latham , <i>Flowers of War: Compositions on the Great War'</i> | |
| 12:30-1:30: Lunch Break | |
| 1:30-3:00: Documentary Screening <i>Diggers' Requiem</i> by Chris Latham | |
| 3:00-4:30: Closing Panel Q&A , chaired by Romain Fathi and Margaret Hutchison Panel consists of Panikos Panayi, Heather Streets-Salter, Christopher Latham, Michael J.K. Walsh, Andrekos Varnava | |

Abstracts and Biographies

Keynotes

Christopher Latham

Title:

Flowers of War: Compositions on the Great War'

Abstract:

The Great War was notable for the number of artists who served or who were appointed to document the war. The works they created during their service are the exact mirror opposite to the propaganda that was created by artists at home. Serving composers, artists and poets created deeply personal statements, often about coming to terms with their friends' and their own death. However equally often, they would transcend the battlefield and enter the realm of their imagination, whereby the creation of beauty became a tool enabling their psychological survival.

Through his work on the *Flowers of War* project which documented these battlefield creations, Australian War Memorial artist-in-residence Christopher Latham will give an overview of some of these recently recovered works, and also will talk about the creation of his *Gallipoli Symphony* and *The Diggers' Requiem*, both large full-concert works, commissioned by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (Australia) and the Australian War Memorial. These multi-author works written by some of the leading composers of our time (musical depictions of the battles of the Gallipoli and Western Front campaigns respectively), reveal deep truths about how we can use the past to understand the present.

Biography:

Christopher Latham was a touring violinist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra (1992-98) before becoming editor for Peter Sculthorpe and many other leading Australian composers while working for the noted publisher, Boosey and Hawkes (1998-2003). He subsequently directed the Four Winds Festival (2004-08), Australian Festival of Chamber Music (2006-2007) and the Canberra International Music Festival (2009-2014). He was Canberra's "Artist of the Year" during its 2013 centenary and music director of the DVA's *Gallipoli Symphony* (2005-2015) and currently directs the *Flowers of War*, which measures the cultural cost of the Great War. He has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Canberra for his work on the music of WW1, the Chevalier of the order of Arts and Letters by the French Government, and was recently appointed Artist in Residence at the Australian War Memorial for five years, the first musician in that role. He is the director of the *Diggers' Requiem* which premieres in France on April 23 and Canberra, Australia on October 6, 2018, telling through music, the story of the Australian soldiers on the Western Front.

Panikos Panayi

Title:

'The Elimination of the Germans from the British Empire at the End of the War'

Abstract:

During the course of the nineteenth century millions of Germans left their homeland to settle throughout the world. While most went towards the Americas, hundreds of thousands moved to Britain and its Empire consisting of those with agricultural and working class backgrounds, as well as elites. By 1914, despite rising Germanophobia as the Great War approached, the migrants remained an integrated group throughout the Empire. My paper will demonstrate how the development of a Germanophobic ideology, emanating from London, but also present throughout British possessions in an equally virulent manner had a devastating impact upon the German communities. The racist ideology meant that Germans faced a combination of draconian measures in the form of internment, property confiscation and deportation. The paper will focus upon the last of these, demonstrating that, while expulsions took place throughout the War, especially against women, who generally escaped the gendered internment policy, by 1918 a desire for the 'extirpation – root and branch and seed - of German control and influence from the British Empire' had emerged as put forward by the London based germanophobic pressure group the British Empire Union. My paper will focus upon the marginalization of the Germans during the Great War and their elimination at its conclusion, which became total in some cases (such as India) and partial in others (such as Great Britain). The lecture will demonstrate how the plight of the Germans, driven forward by an Anglocentric Germanophobia, symbolised the breakdown of relations between Britain and Germany during the first half of the twentieth century.

Biography:

Panikos Panayi is Professor of European History at De Montfort University, Leicester UK. His numerous publications include: *The Germans in India: Elite European Migrants in the British Empire* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017); and as editor, *Germans as Minorities During the First World War: A Global Comparative Perspective* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014). He is currently completing (with Stefan Manz of Aston University) a book titled, *Enemies in the Empire: Interning German "Enemy Aliens" during the First World War*.

Heather Streets-Salter

Title:

'Opportunities Lost and Gained: Anticolonial Revolutionaries in Southeast Asia at the End of the Great War'

Abstract:

In 1914, small but significant numbers of anticolonial revolutionaries living in Southeast Asia saw the war between the Allied and Central powers as an opportunity. Members of the Indian diasporic group called Ghadr and the Viet Nam Restoration Association, especially, saw the enmity between their colonial oppressors and Germany as a chance to gain the financial and material backing they needed to finally win control over their territories. But at the end of the war, collaboration between anticolonial revolutionaries and German agents to undermine colonial rule in Southeast Asia had resulted only in a variety of failed insurrections, and had left both Ghadr and the Viet Nam Restoration Association in disarray. This paper surveys the state of both organizations at the end of the war, and explores the strategies its remaining leaders developed to continue the struggle. In particular, it traces the gradual turn both groups took toward international communism in this early interwar period. Although German support had turned out to be disappointing at best, some anticolonial groups put new faith in Soviet advice, training, and aid in the aftermath of the war. And while communist revolutionaries in Southeast Asia were a relatively small group in the 1920s, their presence had an enormous impact on the development of relations between colonized subjects and the colonial state around the region for decades to come.

Biography:

Heather Streets-Salter is Professor, Department Chair, and Director of World History Programs at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. She received her Ph.D. in History from Duke University. She is the author of *World War One in Southeast Asia: Colonialism and Anticolonialism in an Era of Global Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), *Martial Races: The Military, Martial Races, and Masculinity in British Imperial Culture, 1857-1914* (Manchester University Press, 2004), *Traditions and Encounters: A Brief Global History* (McGraw-Hill, 2006) with Jerry Bentley and Herb Ziegler (now in its fourth edition), and *Empires and Colonies in the Modern World* (Oxford University Press, 2015) with Trevor Getz. Her next project is called *The Chill Before the Cold War: Communism and Anti-Communism in Colonial Southeast Asia in the Interwar Period*.

Delegates

Samraghni Bonnerjee

Title:

“Full responsibility and complete independence”: Vera Brittain’s Anti-imperialism and Support for the Indian Independence Movement’

Abstract:

After the Armistice, Vera Brittain returned to Oxford from her V.A.D. service in London, to finish her degree. In *Testament of Youth* she records her struggles with the “betrayal” of the Treaty of Versailles, and her ideology is reflected by a “Hindu student” she meets at an inter-collegiate debate. Although this is her only mention of an encounter with an Indian either in the hospitals of War or beyond in her memoir, Brittain shared a deep interest in India and vociferously supported the Indian independence struggle—a support that would repeatedly cost her an Exit Permit to visit India in the interwar period.

This paper will focus on Vera Brittain’s post-war work in support of the Indian independence movement from the 1920s onwards, arguing that her experiences as a V.A.D. in the Western Front and a witness to the atrocities of war, which made her a staunch pacifist, also enabled her to view the atrocities of colonialism with shock, horror, and disdain. It will examine her later diaries, pamphlets, and two books (*Search After Sunrise* and *Envoy Extraordinary: A Study of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit*) to reveal her uniquely intersectional- feminist approach on the treatment of Indian political prisoners by the British, the living conditions of refugees in Calcutta, and her calls for the formation of a provisional Indian Government with complete independence.

Biography:

Dr. Samraghni Bonnerjee is a literary and cultural historian of the First World War. She was a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholar at the University of Sheffield, where she read for a PhD in English Literature. For her thesis, she worked on the politics and representation of the body in the life-writings of Anglophone nurses of the First World War. She is a Fellow of UK Higher Education Academy (FHEA). Between 2013 and 2014, she was twice the Goethe Institut *Stipendiatin* to Berlin and Hamburg.

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Bridget Brooklyn

Title:

'Mary Booth's Nationalism at the end of the Great War'

Abstract:

In matters of Australian national and imperial loyalty at the end of the Great War, Neville Meaney's observations, mainly in his influential article, 'Britishness and Australian Identity', have shaped much of the subsequent debate. But there is still more that can be said, particularly in response to the question posed in 1994 by Jill Roe: 'What has Nationalism Offered Australian Women?' In the essay of this name, Roe broke new ground in a wide-ranging and thought-provoking essay that addressed the question of women and nationalism, in the course of which she briefly discusses the activities of the imperially loyal nationalist, Dr Mary Booth. Her account of the impact of Booth's nationalism as a reflection of women's presence in the picture of Australian nationalism is nevertheless pessimistic. For many years, Roe's initial foray has remained the last word on Booth and nationalism, so a revision and expansion is timely in this centenary year of the 'end' of the Great War. Using my own research on Booth, I will develop some of the ideas Roe put forward. In exploring Booth's nationalism in the wake of the Great War, I will place it in the context of nationalism and imperial nationalism generally.

Biography:

Bridget Brooklyn is a lecturer in the History and Political Thought discipline in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, Western Sydney University. Her research interests are late nineteenth and twentieth century Australian social and political history, particularly women's political history. She is currently researching the life and work of conservative political activist and eugenicist Dr Mary Booth.

Recent publications are 'Claiming Anzac: The Battle for the Hyde Park Memorial, Sydney,' *Melbourne Historical Journal* 45, no. 1 and '1954: Did Petrov Matter?' in *Elections Matter: Ten Federal Elections that Shaped Australia*. ed. Benjamin T. Jones, Frank Bongiorno and John Uhr (Monash University Publishing, 2018).

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Laura Cook

Title:

“‘Our Digger Prince’: The political and cultural implications of the 1920 royal tour of Australia by Edward, Prince of Wales’

Abstract:

How did the 1920 royal tour of Australia reinforce a national post-war imperial identity? The current metropolitan historiography has ably demonstrated how, as the presiding symbol of imperial authority during the First World War, the British royal family inspired vehement and sometimes contradictory discourses of loyalty and conformity that extended beyond the Armistice. However, seldom has scholarly attention been directed to contemporary understandings of the Prince’s first and only tour of Australia, an intensely popular expedition conceived in the aftermath of war and enacted across six states between May and August 1920. The extensive series of government records held at the National Archives of Australia and the National Archives at Kew provide an intimate and under-examined view of the way Australia constructed its imperial identity for the royal visitor. This paper considers how the centrality of the monarchy in the interwar imagination was perpetuated in a nation traumatised by war and divided by a rapidly changing world order. I offer an Australian perspective on a public life presently better understood within its British context, and argue for the significance of the tour in illustrating the dynamic post-war relationship that existed between Australia, as one of the Dominions, and the Crown.

Biography:

Laura Cook is a curator at the National Archives of Australia. She previously worked as a curator at the National Museum of Australia and was a Spiros Zournazis Memorial Fellow for 2017 at the Australian War Memorial. She holds a Masters degree in Museum Studies and Curatorship and a PhD in Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Research. Her research interests focus on imperialism and the relationship between the British monarchy and twentieth century Australian social and political culture.

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Charles-Philippe Courtois

Title:

'The aftermath of the Great War and the birth of modern Quebec nationalism, 1917-1923'

Abstract:

A legacy of Canada's conscription crisis during the war and overall national division along linguistic lines during the war was the birth of a new, Quebec-centered, nationalism, that took shape during the interwar period. Our paper proposes to analyse the clash between two leaders of French-Canadian nationalism, Henri Bourassa and Lionel Groulx in 1923 as a heretofore neglected watershed moment in Quebec nationalism, stemming directly from Canada's internal division during the Great War, exacerbated by its level of participation. Our analysis will be focused on the 1918-1923 texts opposing the former allies, setting the debate in the wider context of the legacy of the war in Canada and anti-Imperialism throughout the British Empire. In 1914, Bourassa (1868-1952), editor of the influential Montreal daily *Le Devoir*, was unquestionably the dominant figure in French Canadian nationalism, ever since his resignation as an M.P. from the Liberal party in 1899 over Canada's participation in the Boer war. Though he criticized both Liberals and Tories over their Imperialism and failure to uphold biculturalism in Canada, his nationalism embraced the new federation expanding since 1867. The internal division of Canada during the Great War, and Canada's extensive participation, could be seen as failures of his undertakings. Headed by abbé Lionel Groulx (1878-1967) a new movement centered on the review *L'Action française* (1917), originally as an extension of *Le Devoir*, gradually emancipated itself from his vision, developing instead a Quebec-centered nationalism. From 1918, Groulx began to hint that the days of the British Empire were numbered and this would be French Canada's opportunity. When *L'Action française* openly advocated Quebec separatism in 1922, Henri Bourassa clashed with his former disciples, starting with a series of conferences in 1923. His influence then rapidly declined and he retired from *Le Devoir*. Groulx became the leading figure of Quebec nationalism throughout the interwar period. A new French-Canadian nationalism centred on Quebec gradually imposed itself, as illustrated by the election of a new provincial party, the *Union nationale*, in 1936. This evolution laid the foundations of the modern Quebec nationalism that will come to dominate all provincial parties after 1960 and establish a new Québécois identity. This turning point is hardly separable from the legacy of the war in Canada and the anti-Imperialism it stimulated in Quebec.

Biography:

Charles-Philippe Courtois is Associate Professor of History at Collège Militaire Royal Saint-Jean (Quebec, Canada). Specializing in Quebec intellectual history, his latest publications are the first biography of canon Lionel Groulx (1878-1967), considered a national historian and a leading figure of Quebec nationalism: *Lionel Groulx, le penseur le plus influent de l'histoire du Québec* (Montréal, 2017) and a chapter intitled "Echoes of the Rising in Quebec's Conscription Crisis: The French Canadian Press and the Irish Revolution between 1916 and 1918", in Enrico Del Lago, R. Healy, and G. Barry (eds.): *1916 in Global Context: An Anti-Imperial Moment*, Routledge, 2018. His other publications include *La Conquête, une anthologie* (Montréal, 2009) and, as editor: with Laurent Veyssière, *Le Québec dans la Grande Guerre. Engagements, refus, héritages* (Québec, 2015) and, with R. Comeau and D. Monière, *Histoire intellectuelle de l'indépendantisme québécois*, (2 vols., Montréal, 2010-2012).

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Santanu Das

Title:

‘The racial politics of centennial commemoration: Britain and its former colonies’

Abstract:

One of the most important legacies of the centennial commemoration would be the greater recognition of the contribution of non-white colonial troops. Yet, in the final year, it is important to go beyond simple recovery or remembrance into an investigation of the impulses, challenges and agendas framing such commemoration. In Britain, World War I is being increasingly reinvented as the grand stage to play the tune of multiculturalism, while the responses in the former colonies have been more mixed, from angry resistance (for example, around the sinking of the Mendi and calls to recover the ship, as in South Africa) to deep ambivalence (in colonies as diverse as India and West Indies). Commemoration becomes diagnostic of the unfinished business of empire as well as the evolving relation between war, state and society. Yet, in each, there has been a reassertion of heroic masculinity in the public sphere, as if the only way to recover non-white colonial experience lay through valorisation. Do we have here regression to heroic masculinity that is said to have exploded in the trenches? Has the expansion in memory been necessarily accompanied by a certain sanitisation? Above all, whose memory are we talking about?

This paper will examine some of these questions, with particular reference to Britain, South Asia and South Africa. I shall look at a selection of cultural artefacts produced in each of these places - literary works, visual images, video installations, television programmes and public speeches - to interrogate the racial politics of commemoration in a comparative inter-imperial framework and the pull between academic idealism and political instrumentality in an increasingly unstable world. What is or should be the work of commemoration is the bigger question I shall be asking.

Biography:

Santanu Das is currently Reader in English at King’s College London and is about to take up a Senior Research Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford. He is the author of the award-winning monograph *Touch and Intimacy in First World War Literature* (Cambridge, 2006) and *Indian Troops in Europe, 1914-1918* (Paris, 2014) and the editor of *Race, Empire and First World War Writing* (2016) and the *Cambridge Companion to the Poetry of the First World War* (2014). His next book *South Asia and the First World War: Literature, Images and Songs* the subject of a two-part programme on BBC Radio 4, is due to be published by Cambridge University Press in autumn this year; he is currently editing the *Oxford Book of Colonial Writing of the First World War*.

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Anna Efstathiadou

Title:

'Recruiting the nation: Australian propaganda posters from the First and the Second World Wars'

Abstract:

The paper compares Australian propaganda imagery produced during the First and the Second World Wars with an emphasis on how recruitment posters persuasively construct a sense of national identity. It explores, in particular, how propaganda posters depict representations of a desired Australian national character, history and national space.

The analysis shows that the use of traditional symbols employed by the artists allows continuity in style that exudes an aesthetic modernism; whereas, the repetition of themes generated by government agencies favours and glamourizes the heroics of the armed services, promoting mobilisation and recruitment. It also argues that by the Second World War, there is an expansion and redefinition of contentious narratives relating to representations of a national identity based on British ties and racial whiteness, and a national space that perpetuates the mythology of a peaceful settlement. These narratives are de/constructed due to encounters with the enemy closer to home, at the Pacific theatre; a booming war industry demanding female staff in place of male factory workers; contemporary debates on physical fitness and cultural eugenics; and, ultimately, a better organised propaganda machine utilising technological developments in the field of mass communications.

The paper concludes that Australian First and Second World War propaganda posters draw on existing narratives, which are constantly reconfigured and evolved, as they are influenced by new realities dictated by war, politics and art.

Biography:

Anna Efstathiadou started her career as a historian and language teacher in Greece and later on in the UK, where she also gained a Master on Educational Studies and a Master on Cultural History with a focus on British Second World War propaganda films at the University of Warwick. Completing her PhD at the University of Queensland in Australia, she expanded her area of expertise to propaganda, war and visual image (Australian and Greek First and Second World War posters and photographs). She has numerous publications in international journals and is collaborating with the Department of Photography at the Technological Educational Institution in Athens. She is teaching modern Greek at the Institute of Modern Languages at the University of Queensland and is the official liaison officer of the Hellenic Photographic Society (E.Φ.E.) in Australia, organising and curating exhibitions that promote Greek culture and photography.

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Romain Fathi

Title:

'Commemorating the deeds of the Empire: a constant negotiation. The Imperial War Graves Commission in the aftermath of the Great War'

Abstract:

The Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) is the body which has been at the heart of the commemoration of British soldiers who fought and died in the First World War. This paper investigates how the IWGC ensured that the Empire, as an entity, be commemorated among national (and nationalising) claims which emerged from countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the Empire. After the Armistice, the IWGC had to coordinate the commemoration of soldiers who came from the four corners of the British Empire. The way the war affected the Empire, both strengthening it and prompting the development of national identities forged in battles, influenced the shapes and meanings of the Empire's commemoration of the conflict. The IWGC faced the difficult task to mediate with local authorities in France, Belgium, the Middle East and other locations in order to commemorate the deeds of the Empire which were themselves subject to national claims, and were at times contested. The IWGC could not be seen to favour a dominion over another, nor could it disregard the emerging national narratives which found their way into the memorials the Commission oversaw the construction of. The Commission provides a fascinating case study of a truly imperial body, giving the Empire monuments, symbols and war narratives which in turn contributed to give a reality, a physicality, to the British Empire.

Biography:

Dr Romain Fathi is a Lecturer in History at the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide and an Affiliated Researcher at the *Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po* in Paris. His research interests are concerned with war commemorations, the First World War, and Australian war memorialisation in Northern France. Dr Fathi publishes in French and in English and has taught at several universities, including Sciences Po in France, Yale in the United States, and the University of Queensland in Australia. His forthcoming book will be published with Cambridge University Press in March 2019.

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Hubert Faustmann

Title:

'The Impact of the First World War on British Colonial Rule in Cyprus'

Abstract:

This paper analyses the impact and legacy of the First World War on the transformation of nationalism and the political demands of the two main communities focusing mainly on the 1920s as a formative decade of modern Cypriot history. It concludes that the War had significant direct and indirect, short and long term consequences that transformed the relationship between the two main Cypriot communities and the British. For the Moslem Cypriots the annexation of the island resulted in increased dependency on Britain. At the same time the rise of Kemalism and the emergence of Modern Turkey as the result of the Ottoman defeat triggered the transformation of the Moslems of Cyprus into Turkish Cypriots. For the Greek Cypriots the sole ownership of the island by Britain and the shelving of the enosis question after the war, led to a radicalisation of the Enosis movement culminating in the 1931 uprising. The British responded with economic, social and political reforms that would ultimately lead to the 1931 uprising and the EOKA struggle in the 1950.

Biography:

Hubert Faustmann is Professor for History and Political Science at the University of Nicosia. He is also the director of the office of the German Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Cyprus. From 2006 to 2016 he was the editor-in-chief of the refereed journal *The Cyprus Review*. He has published extensively on the British Colonial Period in Cyprus as well as Cypriot politics, history and society since 1960. He co-writes the annual reports about Cyprus for the Political Data Yearbook of the *European Journal of Political Research*. He is also editor and one of the authors of the monthly FES Cyprus Newsletter.

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Trevor Harris

Title:

‘Repatriation and empire’

Abstract:

The experience of demobilised British and Dominion/Imperial troops was very often unpleasant, sometimes frustrating and occasionally dangerous. Many thousands of Dominion/Imperial troops waited for long, sometimes very long, periods before they could be repatriated. On a number of occasions impatience and frustration boiled over into physical violence, riots and fatalities in British repatriation camps. Canadian soldiers, for example, billeted at the Kimmel Camp near Abergele, North Wales, rioted in early March 1919: five people were killed. The protracted, enforced proximity in the camps of groups of soldiers from different parts of the empire led to other serious incidents, as did contact between troops awaiting repatriation and local populations near the camps. Within the broader context of repatriation, this paper looks at the difficult material conditions in which the troops were required to live while waiting to go home, as well as the administrative and political factors which aggravated these difficulties. In examining a number of documented cases of violence my main objective is to gauge the depth of the Dominion/Imperial troops’ antagonism towards the imperial idea and Britain as its centre and, further, to investigate the intra-imperial dimension of this antagonism, especially its racial/racist component. The vast, complicated repatriation operation, with the quasi- incarceration of many troops, itself became a hostile context/environment, and a factor which exacerbated existing Anglo-imperial and intra-imperial tensions, and demonstrated/stimulated the development of inter-racial problems.

Biography:

Trevor Harris is a graduate of the University of Reading (UK), where he also completed his PhD (1987). He has taught at the University of Salford (UK), the Université Paris Diderot - Paris 7 (France), and the Université François-Rabelais, Tours (France), before moving to the University of Bordeaux in September 2018. His recent publications include: “The Experience of British-Argentine Volunteers 1914–18: A very colonial non- colony?” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, 17.2 (2016). Project MUSE, doi:10.1353/cch.2016.0036; “A Place to Speak the ‘Language of Heaven’? Patagonia as a Land of Broken Welsh Promise”. In Andrekos Varnava (ed.) *Imperial Expectations and Realities. El Dorados, Utopias and Dystopias*. Manchester University Press (Studies in Imperialism), 2015; “British Informal Empire and Welsh Identity and Loyalty in Argentina during the Great War.” *Itinerario* 38.3 (December 2014): 103-17; with Richard Davis and Philippe Vervaecke, *La Décolonisation britannique: perspectives sur la fin d’un empire 1919-1984*, Paris : Fahrenheit, 2012

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Andrew Harrison

Title:

If Not In This World: Memorialising historical narrative through music

Abstract:

At 11am on November 11, 1918, the Great War ended. Although the armistice brought the needless slaughter to a final close, it also allowed the focus to shift to the untold mourning process that had begun four years earlier. Countless families around Australia - indeed, much of the globe - were left to cope with the terrible reality that their sons would never return home. The cost to life was unlike anything the world had seen before.

My composition *If Not In This World* – to be premiered in November 2018 – uses the personal tragedy of my own family’s Great War historical narrative as a way of creatively reflecting upon the subjects of grief and loss. In this paper I will examine my musical decisions when writing the work, and consider how the process of memorialising my own ancestor’s stories through music contributes to a broader reflection on the impact of the Great War and its aftermath upon Australian communities, particularly those in regional areas. Finally, I will assess the importance of music within the ongoing definition and examination of the First World War and its subsequent shaping of Australian society.

Biography:

Andrew Harrison is a composer, scholar and pianist from Melbourne, Australia. He is currently finishing a PhD in Music at the ANU. His research focuses on the composition of a series of works that use narratives from the Great War and Detroit’s recent social upheavals as points of creative departure. He has previously composed two works inspired by the First World War; *The drumfire was incessant and continued all night with unabated fury* (2012) for solo piano (2012) and *Gassed Shell (Severe)* (2014) for mezzo-soprano and chamber ensemble. His 2016 composition *Hum*, written in collaboration with Detroit-based poet Jamaal May, was commissioned and premiered by contemporary music ensemble New Music Detroit in Michigan, USA.

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Matthew Haultain-Gall

Title:

'The threshold of the British Empire': Accommodation, coercion and Australian commemoration at Ypres'

Abstracts:

At the Menin Gate unveiling, King Albert of the Belgians declared that Ypres would 'stand for ever as a symbol of British courage and endurance'. Some ninety years later, Ypres remains a significant British site of memory with thousands crossing the Channel every year to visit the town. However, Ypres' place within the Great War narratives of other countries that constituted the Empire is less assured. In the case of Australia, the names of Australian Imperial Force (AIF) soldiers may adorn the Menin Gate, but the salient occupies an ambiguous place in the Commonwealth's memory of 1914–18. A key reason for this is the limited memorial presence Australians have established in Belgium. Focusing on the roles of Australian and British officials and Belgian locals, this paper explores the politics of memory making behind antipodean commemorative initiatives in the salient. Analysing their memory work reveals the origins of Australia's shallow memorial footprint in Belgian Flanders, which has helped relegate the AIF's involvement in Messines and third Ypres to the periphery of the dominant Great War narrative in Australia, the Anzac legend. Such an analysis also illuminates the shifting influence of empire, nation and *commune* on Anzac commemoration beyond Australian borders.

Biography:

Matthew Haultain-Gall is scientific collaborator at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), Belgium. His research focuses on the cultural and social impacts of the First World War. He has recently completed a PhD at the University of New South Wales (Sydney) in which he traces the memory of the First Australian Imperial Force's battles in Belgium.

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Carolyn Holbrook

Title:

'Nation, Empire and War: The Australian Debate over Imperial Federation'

Abstract:

Australian participation in the First World War proved to be a far more decisive event in the creation of national feeling than did the act of federation in 1901. That military performance registered more profoundly than the peaceful union of six former British colonies reflected the salience of martial nationalism in the era of the New Imperialism. But events at Gallipoli did not simply affirm an emergent Australian nationhood. There was another form of federation that was widely supported within Australia and other parts of the British empire around the time of the First World War; imperial federation. This paper examines Australian supporters and opponents of imperial federation during and after the First World War. It uses evidence including the writing and correspondence of anti-imperial federationists, such as William J. Miles, and supporters of imperial federation, who included many of those involved in the Round Table movement. The paper seeks to understand how imperial federationists and their opponents sought to position Australia's First World War experience, and the emerging Anzac legend, within their competing visions of the nation's destiny, and place within the British Empire. In doing so, the paper will reflect on the comparative appeal of civic and martial forms of nationalism and imperialism in early twentieth century Australia.

Biography:

Carolyn Holbrook is an Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Deakin University in Melbourne. She is the author of *Anzac: The Unauthorised Biography* (New South, 2014), a history of how Australians have remembered the Great War. Her current research is in two areas: the history of policy-making in twentieth century Australia, and the cultural history of Australian federalism.

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Margaret Hutchison

Title:

'A Suitable Memorial: The legacy of the First World War official art collections in Australia, Canada and New Zealand'

Abstract:

The rituals and practices that emerged to celebrate and commemorate the First World War shaped not only the physical but also the cultural landscape of many belligerent nations. The official war art schemes that were established during the conflict, were born out of ideas circulating among Dominion politicians, artists and officers in London about how to commemorate the conflict. Australia, Canada, and New Zealand each amassed a collection of official images to be displayed to those at home as a lasting memorial of the war.

Yet, the fate of each of these collections after the war was very different. While the Australian collection retains a central place in the Australian War Memorial's First World War exhibitions, the Canadian collection has only very recently found a permanent home in the Canadian War Museum, while and the New Zealand collection languishes in the basement of Archives New Zealand. This paper explores the reasons for the success or failure of each art collection to act as a "site of memory" in the aftermath of the war, examining the way in which they either satisfied or unsettled narratives of the conflict in each Dominion. In this way, it provides an insight into the commemoration of the First World War, which was both tied to the trends of the metropole as well as reflecting emerging and divergent national developments.

Biography:

Margaret (Meggie) Hutchison is a lecturer in History at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane. Her research focuses on the history of war, culture and memory. She completed her PhD in the School of History at the Australian National University in 2015. Her doctoral thesis explored Australia's first official art scheme of the First World War and was shortlisted for the Australian Historical Association's Serle Award for the best postgraduate thesis in Australian History. She is the author of *Painting War: A history of the Australia's First World War art scheme*, published with Cambridge University Press in 2018.

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Kate Imy

Title:

‘Soldiers of 1919: Sikhs and Muslims in India after World War One’

Abstract:

When international diplomats set the terms for peace in Versailles in June 1919, many South Asians feared that another war was just beginning. Two months earlier, General Reginald Dyer commanded troops to open fire on an unarmed Indian crowd, killing hundreds. This occurred in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar during a religious festival. Meanwhile, the Third Anglo-Afghan War began in the spring and summer of 1919. The Empire used violent force against Muslims in Afghanistan and along India’s northwestern borders. Warfare and repression were the order of the day in “peacetime.” The paradox of postwar violence was that at least 60% of the British Indian Army was composed of Muslims and Sikhs from northwestern India. The very populations most affected by postwar struggles for stability and security were most likely to be called upon to serve and fight for the empire. This paper explores the immediate post-WWI period to examine how it was often difficult to tell the difference between a perpetrator and a victim of imperial violence. Sikh and Muslim soldiers shared in the struggle to establish a place for themselves in an India vastly different from the one they left behind in 1914.

Biography:

Kate Imy is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Texas. She received her PhD at Rutgers under Seth Koven, Indrani Chatterjee, and Bonnie G. Smith. She has published articles in the *Journal of British Studies*, *Gender & History* and *Twentieth Century British History*. Her first article, entitled “Queering the Martial Races: Masculinity, Sex and Circumcision in the Twentieth Century British Indian Army” won the Nupur Chaudhuri First Article Prize (Coordinating Council for Women in History), presented at the American Historical Association. Her research in England, India, Nepal and the United States has been supported by the Fulbright Foundation, the Institute of Historical Research (London), and the Mellon Foundation. Two U.S. Department of State scholarships enabled her to learn Hindi and Urdu in India. She is currently revising a manuscript on the twentieth century British Indian Army.

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Stephanie James

Title:

‘India and Ireland: the role of the Irish-Catholic Press in Engaging Irish-Australians with Developing Imperial Issues’

Abstract:

In the aftermath of the Easter Rising and Britain’s evasion and denial of Ireland’s right to independence, from 1919 Irish-Catholic newspapers in Australia played an important role in informing their readers about the emerging situation in India. Although some close connections between Ireland and India predated the Great War, this paper will argue that increasing Irish- Australian recognition of the Irish as the ‘only white race held in subjection and oppression by brute force,’ allowed for much deeper local empathy and sympathy towards events and responses in India. Looking at the Irish-Catholic press in all states from 1919 to 1921 enables focus on the source and content of material presented to readers. At a time when ‘disloyalty’ was powerfully evident in Ireland, the nature of editorial comment also provides important insight into the nature of Irish- Australian engagement with broader imperial issues, in particular those going against the grain of permanent British colonial rule.

Biography:

Strong Irish descent and a lifelong interest in history have combined to feed Stephanie James’ interest in the lives of Irish-Australians. Questions of this minority group’s identity and loyalty in an Anglo-dominant society have propelled her research interests. Publications have looked at aspects of early Irish colonists in South Australia as well as issues of Irish-Australian loyalty/disloyalty at times of imperial crisis such as the Great War, the subject of her PhD at Flinders University in 2014. This focus has led to the examination of parallels with German-Australians who experienced more extreme but unanticipated wartime ‘othering.’ Her current projects include coediting diverse multi-author volumes, one dealing with the Irish in South Australia, and another examining a broad range of approaches to the history of World War Two. Stephanie is a Honorary Research Fellow at Flinders University.

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Thomas J. Kehoe

Title:

‘The formative influence of British colonialism on the American approach to military government occupation after World War One’

Abstract:

American strategies for military occupation in the 20th Century are often attributed to distinct traditions owing nothing to British military heritage or imperialism. Scholars cite anti-imperialist republican values, and the experience of frontier and civil war in the 19th and early 20th Centuries to explain the gradual emergence of an American form of limited “military government”. This “arch-occupier” model was notionally apolitical (non-imperialist), ideally existing only during wartime to complement frontline operations. It relied on a few officers who ensured control via strict martial law, whilst governing through collaborators, co-opted local institutions, and subordinated cultures, an approach aptly summarised as “minimum change...maximum control”.

New evidence however, suggests this long history may be spurious. Rather, the Americans owe a debt to British colonialism. This paper shows that the formative period for American thinking about military occupation occurred between the World Wars, in the wake of the Allies’ occupation of the German Rhineland (1918-1923).

Interwar thinkers recognised that American military government was rarely just strategic or apolitical. Moreover, they sought to adapt key elements of the British colonial model including limited intervention and coercion of occupied peoples to suit American requirements, thereby potentially extending colonial structures of governance into the superpower age.

Biography:

Thomas J. Kehoe is Postdoctoral Research Fellow in history in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of New England, Australia. He trained in history and genocide studies at the University of Sydney and then European and American history at the University of Melbourne, where he received his doctorate. He now specialises in governance during post-war occupations and has published on various aspects of this topic. He has a corollary interest in colonial racism, particularly non-German soldiers in the German military during World War Two, which has led to publications on Nazi propaganda for the Arabs and on Arab volunteers for the Wehrmacht. He currently focuses on the origins and development of American ideas about military occupation from the interwar period to the present day. A forthcoming monograph examines crime, policing, and governance in the American Zone of occupied Western Germany after World War Two.

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Anna Maguire

Title:

'The Colonial War Brides of the First World War'

Abstract:

Little has been written of the British women who married soldiers from the British Empire during the First World War, unlike their counterparts from the Second World War. Yet these women's experiences of travelling across the world at the end of the war, particularly to the former dominions, significantly allows us to examine the legacies of the encounters generated by the mobilisation of millions of colonial servicemen. This paper examines the tensions generated by the phenomenon of wartime marriage, particularly in New Zealand, Australia and Canada – the reception of these new 'settlers', relationship breakdown, racial mixing and 'miscegenation' – through a wide range of source materials: newspaper reporting on war marriages, official documents, personal accounts and fictional narratives. Through individual stories of wartime love and hardship, the tensions in colonial war marriages are shown to contribute to and shape narratives of inter-war migration, gender and colonial relations: the 'closeness' of the imperial family; the legal relationships between men and women across colonial locations and the emotions of settlement.

Biography:

Anna Maguire is Teaching Fellow in Twentieth Century British History at King's College London. My research is interested in colonial and post-colonial encounters in Britain and the British Empire. My doctoral research explored the encounters of colonial troops from New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies during the First World War, which I am currently working up into a book. I have published articles and book chapters on New Zealanders in London during the war and colonial life-writing, with more work on tourism, masculinity and photography forthcoming. With Santanu Das and Daniel Steinbach, I am editing a collection of essays on Cultural Encounters during the First World War for Routledge. I am interested, too, in the memory and commemoration of colonial participation. My new research examines mixed-race relationships in Britain in the post-war period.

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Hannah Mawdsley

Title:

“‘It was said to be a disease from the war’”: Australia, Armistice, and the 1918-19 Influenza Pandemic’

Abstract:

In 1918, as the First World War drew closer to its end, a different scourge was threatening lives around the world. The 1918-19 ‘Spanish’ influenza pandemic infected up to a third of the world’s population and killed up to 100 million people, all within about a year. In many places, joyful armistice celebrations ironically provided the ideal opportunity for the virus to spread.

Despite the global nature of the pandemic, the experience of the flu could vary significantly. The Australian experience was particularly different due to the quarantine enacted by Dr. J. H. L. Cumpston, which succeeded in keeping the flu out of Australia for over three months. Armistice celebrations were also delayed until mid 1919. The success of the quarantine was nonetheless a means by which Australia could assert its nationhood on both a national and international scale, removed from its role in the First World War which was conducted in the shadow of its former metropole. The quarantine provided liminal space in which ordinary people could record and memorialise their experience. It also provided a place for Australia on the international stage, through success in the field of public health administration.

Biography:

Hannah Mawdsley is a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD candidate with Queen Mary, University of London and the Imperial War Museum, London. She holds a BA (Hons) from the University of Durham and an MA from the University of Exeter. Her thesis examines the evolving memory of the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, with a particular focus on Australia and New Zealand. She is currently making a ten part podcast series on the pandemic with Dr Mark Honigsbaum. She is also historical consultant for BBC TV and BBC radio for influenza centenary programming.

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Colin Milner

Title:

'Robert Randolph Garran's Great War: an experience of nation, empire and the world'

Abstract:

Robert Randolph Garran (1867-1957) was the long-serving inaugural Secretary of the new Commonwealth of Australia's Attorney-General's Department from 1901 to 1932 and also Solicitor-General from 1916 to 1932. The First World War required Garran (and his Department) to work more closely on international issues than before and he became involved with the development of Australian diplomacy both during and after the war. In London supporting Prime Minister W. M. Hughes at meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference in 1918, Garran directly experienced disappointment at the United Kingdom's failure to consult the Dominions (including Australia) on the terms of the Armistice, which highlighted the conflicts of interest that could exist between them. At the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, Garran was one of an able group of officials, including John Latham and Frederic Eggleston, who played pioneering roles as diplomats in supporting Australia's political leaders, notably Hughes. By focussing on public servants in addition to the politicians, we get a distinctive sense of Australia's evolving relationship with the British Empire-Commonwealth and the world during (and also after) the war years, including the development of 'dominion status' which would be an important outcome from the war.

Biography:

Colin Milner is a PhD student in the Australian National University's School of History, researching and writing a thesis on Garran. This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship. Formerly a Research Officer and Campus Visitor at the School, he worked earlier in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1990 to 2014. He was Special Representative to Nauru in 2004-05 and has served on various Australian delegations, including at meetings with ASEAN, the Commonwealth of Nations, the Council of Europe, the Pacific Islands Forum and the United Nations. He has published chapters on human rights and international law in James Cotton and David Lee (eds), *Australia and the United Nations* (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2012), and on Garran in Joan Beaumont and Matthew Jordan (eds), *Australia and the World: A Festschrift for Neville Meaney* (Sydney University Press, 2013).

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John C. Mitcham

Title:

'The Spoils of War: The Dominions and the Expansion of Empire'

Abstract:

In the Spring of 1917, the leaders of the Dominions joined British Prime Minister David Lloyd George to create an Imperial War Cabinet. This cloistered fraternity of white elites marked a unique constitutional experiment that devolved power from Whitehall and laid the groundwork for the Commonwealth. But it also gave the Dominions a greater voice in setting the terms for peace. Through their successful lobbying in London and Paris, Australia received German New Guinea, New Zealand acquired German Samoa, and South Africa gained German Southwest Africa. Even Canada made a failed bid for imperial status with a secret proposal to annex Greenland and the Danish West Indies. Far from being passive victims of colonialism, the Dominions enthusiastically participated in a brand of sub-imperialism that made them partners in the British World project.

Based on archival research in seven countries, this paper will explore the role of Dominion elites in shaping the postwar world. It will examine the importance of Dominion premiers such as New Zealand's William Massey and Canada's Robert Borden, but also other influential figures such as Australian media mogul Keith Murdoch, Canadian financier Max Aitken, and the Afrikaner general Jan Smuts. These men employed personal influence and informal diplomacy to prosecute the war while also forging ahead with their own expansionist agenda manner that dramatically restructured global boundaries.

Biography:

John C. Mitcham is an Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History at Duquesne University (USA). He earned his PhD from the University of Alabama in 2012. John's first book, *Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870-1914*, was published in 2016 by Cambridge University Press and was a finalist for the Templer Medal given by the UK's Society for Army Historical Research. Mitcham's new book project is entitled *Remaking the World: The Great War and the Origins of the Commonwealth*. In this broad transnational study, he examines how political leaders, colonial administrators, military officers, journalists, and business elites in Britain and the Dominions dealt with the First World War and the rise of anti-colonial nationalism in places like Ireland, India, South Africa, and Egypt. John has lectured throughout Britain, Canada, Australia, and the United States, and is an elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He and his wife Nichole live in Pittsburgh with their six year old, Eleanor.

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Rajarshi Mitra

Title:

'Martial Bengalis in the Great War: The Story of Bengali Ambulance Corps and 49th Bengali Regiment'

Abstract:

This paper looks at the memorialization of Bengali martyrs of the Great War. Bengalis, vilified by the British Raj as a non-martial race, sent an ambulance corps and a regiment (49th Bengali Regiment) to the theatre of war to shed their non-martial image. Following the war, as the regiment was disbanded, its disappointed war veterans celebrated their bravery and their heroic suffering in their memoirs. Their stories contributed to the Bengali self-esteem, their masculine character, loyalty and devotion to the cause of the British Empire. The paper unearths the story behind the formation of the Bengali regiment and focuses on several memoirs published by Bengali soldiers after the War. It explores what could have been a very Bengali experience of the War at a time when Bengal was becoming a nerve centre of militant nationalism. The story of the Bengali regiment allows us to address the effect of racial tension on a community torn between seeking its rightful place in the Empire and its national sentiments.

Biography:

Dr Rajarshi Mitra is Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Guwahati. Before joining IIT Guwahati, he was Assistant Professor in Department of English, Central University of Karnataka. He has an M Phil (2010) from Department of English, University of Hyderabad and a PhD (2014) from Department of English Literature, The English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. For his PhD, he had worked on natural history narratives from India between 1857 and 1950 and his M Phil was on colonial tiger hunting narratives. His research interests include food and culture, horror films, Romanticism and literature and colonialism in general. In IITG, he teaches Science Fiction and Indian Writing in English and conducts student workshops on horror films.

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Alexia Moncrieff

Title:

'Unworthy of Assistance: Imperial Pensioners, Family Breakdown and the State'

Abstract:

The Ministry of Pensions files at the UK National Archives provide evidence of the messiness of private life in and after the First World War. The bureaucratic processes of applying for, assessing, and granting pensions – with the accompanying forms, correspondence and attempts to quantify the extent and effect of disability – reveal the intensely personal experiences of veterans and their families. Previous histories have demonstrated that the Ministry sought to limit Britain's financial responsibilities, achieved, in part, by the monitoring of war widows' behaviour to ensure they honoured their late husbands' sacrifice and ending financial provision for those it deemed unworthy. This paper argues that demonstrated medical need was not sufficient for Imperial Pensioners to receive financial assistance and that they were also subject to judgements of morality. It suggests that the state was willing to use imperial networks to intervene to fulfil a man's responsibility to his family, despite added cost, when he was unable or unwilling to do so himself. Using source material from the 'Overseas' subsection of the Ministry's personal case files, this paper discusses examples of family breakdown in the lives of Imperial Pensioners and examines the institutional responses to the ensuing requests for assistance made by both disabled ex-servicemen and their estranged wives.

Biography:

Dr Alexia Moncrieff is the Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the ERC-funded Men, Women and Care project in the School of History at the University of Leeds. Her research examines the lives of the disabled British ex-servicemen who emigrated after the First World War through the bureaucratic paper trail created by their pension applications. She is also developing an allied project on the ethical use of historical medical documentation. Her PhD thesis (University of Adelaide, 2017), on the Australian Army Medical Corps in the First World War, was awarded a Dean's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence.

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Lucy Moore

Title:

'Jogendra Nath Sen: A Life'

Abstract:

Jogendra Nath Sen was born in Chandernagore, India in 1887. He grew up in the French colony and later emigrated to Leeds, UK in order to attend University. After graduation, he worked as an engineer in the city and in 1914 he volunteered for the British Army and fought in the 'Leeds Pals' battalion. He was killed in May 1916.

New research in India and in the UK, in partnership with the University of Leeds and the Institut de Chandernagore has expanded our understanding of his life. During his lifetime, his service for the British Army was used by the French colonial administration to urge other men from Chandernagore to join the French Army. In Leeds, he was a point of interest amongst his comrades. Back in India his family did not see the need for him to fight. After the war, he was commemorated on two war memorials in the city, but his life story was largely forgotten.

As a Bengali, Jogendra Nath Sen, the Theory of Martial Races applied to him and comparison with other Bengali soldiers in the British Forces, the 49th Bengali Regiment and his persistence in volunteering throws interesting light on Bengali identity during the First World War.

Leeds Museums & Galleries is leading a strategic partnership to engage people both in the UK and India with his life. We are working with community groups in the UK and with educational projects in India to develop online resources for teachers highlighting his life, including a short animated film. Discussion with television producers will lead to Sen featuring in a national broadcast, looking at immigration in Yorkshire, then and now.

Commemorating Sen's life gives individual substance to our understanding of the impact of colonialism, through British, French and Bengali military histories, provides a fascinating insight into identity and empire/s during the First World War. The contemporary commemoration of Sen and its importance locally, nationally and internationally emphasises the importance of diversity in our legacies of understanding of the First World War.

Biography:

Lucy Moore is curator and historian working at Leeds Museums and Galleries. Her current role organises the commemoration of the First World War for the nine sites that make up the museum service. Leeds Museums & Galleries is the largest local authority museums service in the UK and has developed an inclusive programme of commemoration across the city. She is the co-author of *Great War Britain: Leeds 1914-18* (The History Press, 2015) and editor of the forthcoming *Leeds Pals Handbook* (The History Press, 2018). Her curatorial practice links together community engagement the First World War, seeking to represent the broadest range of stories that the sites and collections she works with can. The local truly takes you to the global.

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Andonis Piperoglou

Title:

'In Favour of Empire, 1923: Greek refugees, land settlement, and imperial loyalty in Australia'

Abstract:

In 1923 a 'population exchange' between Greece and Turkey imposed a transfer of populations between the two countries. This paper will explore how the Greek Consul General in Australia, Christy Freeleagus, attempted to persuade Australian officials to grant displaced Greeks with assisted passage and allotments of land for settlement in rural Australia. Meeting immigration officials in London, Adelaide, and Melbourne, Freeleagus claimed that Greek refugees would make exceptional Australian agriculturalists. His representations reveal a Greek-Australian awareness of Australia's desire for economic development through land cultivation and a specifically post-war Greek allegiance to Britain and the advancement of its imperial dominions. Yet, due to a revived sense of imperial unity during the interwar years, Freeleagus' attempt to assist Greek refugees through a land settlement scheme fell on deaf ears. Previously-held racist views on the composition of Australia's future population was reinforced, while the adoption of soldier settlement schemes and the enactment of the *Empire Settlement Act 1922* ensured that considerations of empire significantly influenced matters of Australian immigration and economic development. In short, an unwavering favour for the security and stability of the empire in Australia ensured that British people and not Greek refugees were assisted to settle on Australian land.

Biography:

Dr Andonis Piperoglou is a historian who focuses on the history migration and race in the early-twentieth century. In 2016, he completed his dissertation, 'Greek Settlers: Race, Labour, and the Making of White Australia, 1890s-1920s', at La Trobe University. The thesis explored how Greeks were positioned in Australian racial imaginings while investigating how Greek migrants-cum-settlers articulated a sense of belonging within the exclusionary contours of the Australian settler-colonialism. He was the recipient of the EU-AU Global Citizenship Programme and was awarded a La Trobe University Sustainable Research Excellence Grant. He has published in the *Journal of Australian Studies*, the *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, *History Australia*, and has a forthcoming chapter in the edited collection *The Immigration Histories of Britain, Australasia and the Empire: Movement in a Globalised World*. Currently, Andonis is a research associate in history at Flinders University and lecturers at the Australian Catholic University.

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Thomas Schmutz

Title:

'From Jerusalem to Baku: The German-British rivalry for a new Middle East'

Abstract:

The paper analysis the German-British relationship in the Ottoman world at the end of the First World War. For the German foreign department, the British Empire was often thought of as a potential ally in the years before the First World War, since an alliance with Great Britain would open up unprecedented possibilities for German imperialism. At the same time, the British maritime supremacy was also one of the greatest obstacles to German dreams of places "in the sun". After aligning with the Ottoman Empire in summer 1914, Berlin's first move was to secure the defense of the Straits. The first Ottoman offensive in 1915 was furthermore guided by German officers and aimed at the Suez Canal. Throughout the war in the Middle East, British intelligence and strategy had to face German concepts of warfare, embedded in the Central Powers joint operations. Apart from military operations, Germany and Britain were in permanent confrontation and rivalry over the mobilization of Muslims (Jihad, authority of the Caliphate) and Jews for their imperial aims. From Zionist projects on both sides to the run for oil in Baku, German-British enmity shaped the declining Ottoman world in the years 1917 and 1918 importantly.

Biography

Thomas Schmutz studied History, Political Science and German Literature at the University of Zurich and Paris Diderot 7. He is a PhD candidate at the Centre for the History of Violence in Newcastle, Australia, and at the University of Zurich. He is interested in transnational, diplomatic and military history, genocide studies and discourses on otherness. His doctoral thesis concentrates on the Western diplomacy in Asia before and during the First World War with regard to violence, intervention and reform. The research focuses on the relationship between Western diplomacy and Asian Christians. Hereby, it shows entanglements between Europe and Asia. He challenges Eurocentric views on the global war and the time of high imperialism from a diplomatic perspective. His findings on the Armenian Reform Question are published for example as *Reform or cataclysm? The agreement of 8 February 1914*, with Hans-Lukas Kieser and Mehmet Polatel (*Journal of Genocide Research*, 17/3 (2015)).

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Christeen Schoepf

Title:

What's in a Name? Memorialising the war work of five hundred women on the periphery of Empire: The Cheer-Up Society Honour Board

Abstract:

On the periphery of the British Empire, and the First World War, hundreds of South Australian women performed tasks that exceeded the mere feeding of troops and the provision of comforts. The women of the Cheer-Up Society (CUS) worked to support the physical and mental health needs of the troops of the empire and allied nations; buried those who had died alone and penniless after their return; erected memorials to the dead; and, a triumphal arch to welcome home the living. Their work did not end at Armistice but continued until 1946. Similar groups had worked successfully across the empire, but the war efforts of few imperial women would be individually commemorated on any form of memorial. In contrast, the five hundred women of the CUS are recorded in their own names on an honour board carved by local artisan Blanche Francis in 1919. Commissioned by men, it embodies their belief that women could, and did, contribute to the outcome of the war from the periphery. This paper will discuss the women, their work and collective identity, how and why they are remembered by the men, and consider the Cheer-Up Honour Board within the historiography of post-war memory and memorialisation.

Biography:

Christeen Schoepf is a Historical Archaeologist in the final phase of her PhD (University of Adelaide) examining the role of the Cheer-Up Society of South Australia during the First World War. She has presented the significance of the work of the society throughout Australia and internationally including Abu Dhabi, London, Christchurch and Buenos Aires and was awarded South Australian Emerging Historian of 2014. Christeen has recreated the essence of the home of the Cheer-Up Society at exhibitions across SA and is consulting on several other major projects relating to the home front and collective remembrance, particularly the Rolls of Honour carved by women.

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Richard Scully

Title:

'Trevelyan's War: An Historian and the Mediation of Wartime Experience on the Italian Front, 1915-1918'

Abstract:

Upon the outbreak of war in 1914, the British Empire's academics positively flocked to the colours. Those – like Bertrand Russell and Arnold Lupton – who spoke against the war, and engaged in pacifist activity, were decidedly in the minority. The historians Arnold Toynbee, J. W. Headlam, R. W. Seton- Watson, and Lewis Namier, were profitably employed by Wellington House and the Foreign Office, as well as at the front. Scholarly attention has tended to focus on one or other group of scholars: conscientious objectors or gung-ho patriots. But in the wartime career of one outstanding historian – G.

M. Trevelyan (1876-1962) – one can observe something of a convergence. Trevelyan was so driven by his personal beliefs, and his fascination for the historical themes he explored, as to help raise and command an entire Red Cross ambulance unit for the Italian Front. Himself deemed unfit for military service because of defective eyesight, 'Trevy' welcomed others whose status or beliefs otherwise prevented active participation in the war-effort (in addition to the British and Italian women who staffed the 1st British Ambulance for Italy, the car section was composed of a considerable number of Quakers and other conscientious objectors). The beginnings of a larger project, this paper examines these and other experiences of Trevelyan's Voluntary Aid Detachment, and their significance for understanding largely unexplored aspects of wartime service.

Biography:

Dr Richard Scully is Associate Professor in Modern European History at the University of New England, Armidale. The author of *British Images of Germany: Admiration, Antagonism & Ambivalence, 1860-1914* (Palgrave, 2012), Richard focuses on the Great War in his undergraduate and postgraduate teaching; and has explored aspects of transnational war-work and service by cartoonists, nurses, cartographers, and soldiers in: *The Great War and the British Empire: Culture and Society* (Routledge, 2017); and the journals *War & Society* (2016), and *Imago Mundi* (2010). He is currently undertaking a study of the wartime service of G. M. Trevelyan; while a three-volume study of *Eminent Victorian Cartoonists* (2018) is forthcoming, via the Political Cartoon Society (London); and his current research projects relate other aspects of political cartoon history (internationally, as well as in Australian contexts; arising from a 2013- 2015 ARC DECRA).

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Tom Sear

Title:

“‘The True Story of Ah Q’”: British decline, American power, the rise of Chinese nationalism 1918-1923 and reflexive contemporary centenary commemoration in China?

Abstract:

This paper explores how the transition between British and American Asia–Pacific hegemony in the years of the Armistice and aftermath of the Great War influenced nationalism in China, while reflecting upon how the extensive memorial cultures developed in the British Empire during this period are now being co-opted in China to commemorate the anniversaries of those events. The Armistice through to the Washington Naval Conference saw a complex negotiation of Anglo-American competition and cooperation in the transfer of power in the international order from the British Empire to American hegemony. Chinese perceptions of treatment within this dynamic prompted the May Fourth Movement 五四运动 Beijing events in 1919. Relations with Britain and the United States at Versailles fuelled an emergent movement which is considered the start of a contemporary Chinese cultural and political consciousness. Equally, it was during these years of aftermath, that the British Empire developed transnational cultures and technologies of commemoration of the Great War which have dominated international memory cultures ever since. May 4, 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of these events in Chinese history. These events will be commemorated in China within a new, and highly technological, conception of history and memory under Xi Jinping’s leadership. This paper explores how forms developed in the British Empire will be recruited in these newer forms of Chinese centenary commemoration of key events in aftermath of the Great War.

Biography:

Tom Sear is a PhD candidate in the Australian Centre for Cyber Security (ACCS) at UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA). Tom’s PhD explores cyber temporalities and the warfare information space (notably interpersonal and social media-based communication) over the last century. It has a particular focus on the convergence and reflexivity between the memory of nodal conflicts from the twentieth century, contemporary Asymmetrical Hybrid Warfare (AHW) ecologies, and gaming within planetary scale computation. The purpose of this interdisciplinary research is to advise IT and cyber security specialists, military personnel and educators how to maximize information tools within future conflict, by applying historical, social science and digital theory lenses to the analysis. His PhD considers the capacity and methodological impact of new tools for Information War analysis. Tom was selected into the internationally competitive Oxford Internet Institute, Summer Doctoral Programme, University of Oxford, July 2017. Tom’s publications on the commemoration of the First World War and profile can be found at: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/mr-tom-sear> His academic journalism (including work on China) is available at: <https://theconversation.com/profiles/tom-sear-273513> You can follow him on Twitter @tomsear

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Daniel Marc Segesser

Title:

‘Empire, Food and Weather: A Historiographical Analysis’

Abstract:

At the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 food and weather played almost no role at all. As recent and a few less recent studies (Krämer et al. 2016, Offer 1989, Segesser 2016) have shown, however, food and weather were essential elements for almost all belligerent countries during the war and in Germany right wing activists even claimed that it had been the “Hungerblockade”, which had finally brought their country down. Taking the theoretical framework of *histoire croisée* (Werner&Zimmermann 2006) as a starting point and based on an analysis of the Carnegie Economic and Social History of the World War of the 1920s and 1930s as well as of further publications the presentation proposed here wants to examine the relevance of food and weather during the war in post-war historiography with a special focus on the British Empire and particularly its non- metropolitan areas.

Biography:

Daniel Marc Segesser is director of undergraduate studies (Studienleiter) and adjunct professor (Privatdozent) at the Department of History of the University of Bern in Switzerland. In 2012 he was guest professor for the History of the Modern World at the ETH in Zurich. His current research focuses on aspects of transnational and global as well as environmental history of the First World War and on the history of international law in the period between 1872 and 1945. He has published on the history of the First World War in a global and environmental perspective, on Australia in this conflict and on the history of international law. A full list of publications is available at http://www.hist.unibe.ch/ueber_uns/personen/segesser_daniel_marc/index_ger.html

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Richard Smith

Title:

'The Taranto Mutiny Revisited'

Abstract:

The mutiny of British West Indies Regiment battalions at Taranto, Italy in December 1918, during the early stages of demobilisation, occupies a central place in Caribbean memories of the First World War. Since Elkins' pioneering 1970 study, the event has been regarded as a pinnacle of resistance to a racist military hierarchy and a significant manifestation of nascent nationalist sentiment. These attributes still capture the central significance of the mutiny, however there are other issues and outcomes which demand attention if a more complete picture of the revolt and its legacy is to be gained. Therefore, this paper explores the tension between radical nationalist demands and parallel moods of imperial reform, co-operation and welfarism evident among the Taranto veterans.

Accounting for the short-lived nature of the Caribbean League, evidently the only organisation to emerge directly from the mutiny, the paper also considers the tension between collective West Indian nationalism and the pursuit of distinctive island identities. The persistence of West Indian colour/class distinctions in the apparent separate organisation of non-commissioned officers and private soldiers will also be explored. In assessing the contemporary relevance of the mutiny, the paper will explore the competing nature of history, memory and commemoration implicit in the transition of West Indian volunteers and their descendants from imperial subjects, to citizens of independent and fragmented national entities, to members of migrant communities in the UK and beyond.

Biography:

Richard Smith is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths, University of London where he teaches critical approaches to race, gender, empire and memory. He has published widely on the experience of West Indian combatants, most notably, *Jamaican Volunteers in the First World War* (Manchester, 2004). Richard has also published on the relationship between military service and Pan-Africanism and comparative studies discussing race and masculinity in broader imperial military contexts. Richard's current research focuses on representations of imperial troops in contemporary media and creative work, particularly in the context of the First World War centenary commemorations, exploring how these elements of war memory and memorialisation contribute to identities in contemporary multicultural Britain and former colonies. Richard's expertise is regularly sought by journalists and broadcasters and he is currently involved in a broad range of academic, community and creative initiatives which have emerged during the centenary period.

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Jesse Tumblin

Title:

“Unmixed Asiatic Descent”: Conscription, Colonial Sovereignty, and the Aftermath of the Great War’

Abstract:

In the aftermath of the First World War, military and political ruin accompanied deeper upheavals in constitutional norms and national identities. The vast resource demands of the war had spurred debates about conscription across the British world. The specter of conscription implicated unprecedented proportions of British subjects in the war, and made abstract concepts of state sovereignty real in the prospect of compulsive lethal service to the state. The war ended, but the debates did not: how far did the Imperial Government’s legal sovereignty extend in its increasingly complex Empire? Were Canadians living in Britain subject to conscription, the ultimate expression of state authority over individual subjects? Were the Irish? In 1918, a remarkable test case emerged in English civil court: a young man named Rupert Reuben, the son of Singaporean traders, was conscripted into the British Army while at school in Brighton. Rupert and his family sought a draft exemption on racial grounds, as the law provided an exemption for those of “unmixed Asiatic descent.” His court case, which drew in civil magistrates, military officials, administrators from the Colonial, Foreign, and India Offices, and banking and education contacts, reveals the contours of both emerging ideas of race in the British World and emerging realities of sovereignty in the Empire. Ultimately the Armistice, and not an objective determination of Reuben’s race, saved him from imprisonment. His ordeal pointed to a future in which state power, national identity, and colonial hierarchy would face renegotiation. This paper situates it within that renegotiation of sovereignty and subjecthood in the aftermath of the First World War.

Biography:

I am Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Boston College. I completed my PhD in 2016, and study militarization in British colonies in the early twentieth century, and the ways that “security” became a political imperative and a cultural phenomenon in modern states. My book manuscript, *The Quest For Security: Sovereignty, Race, and the Defense of the British Empire, 1898-1931*, is currently under review at Cambridge University Press. It asks why modern liberal democracies have embraced militarization and national security. I locate the answer in the changing relationships between Britain and its empire in the early twentieth century, focusing especially on India, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. I have also published an article on race and imperial defense in the greater Pacific in the journal *Britain and the World*; it won the Saki Ruth Dockrill Prize for International History from the IHR in London in 2015. I teach courses at Boston College on both world wars, terrorism, and the collapse of democratic states from the classical period to the present.

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Andrekos Varnava

Title:

‘Arthur Crosfield and the Failure of the *Enosis* Movement in 1920: Liberal Philhellenism, Imperialism and the Greater War’

Abstract:

On 26 October 1920, in the comfort of the offices of the Colonial Office, Leo Amery, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, informed a Greek Cypriot deputation that the government was not prepared to cede Cyprus to Greece (*enosis*). Amery had in fact made such an announcement in the House of Commons on 1 July 1920 and repeated it on 15 November in light of his meeting with the deputation. In the aftermath of the Armistice a debate ensued across various departments and occasionally in the public in the UK over whether to cede Cyprus to Greece or not. This paper focuses on those in the UK who supported the measure. It looks at the reasons why they were supporters of *enosis*, mainly because of Liberal Philhellenism and the idea of national self-determination, and why they failed to win the argument, namely because imperialism was in the ascendancy in the Coalition government, there was uncertainty over the political situation in Greece, the peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire, and the continued conflict in the region. The paper particularly focusses on the involvement of Arthur Crosfield, a prominent Liberal society figure with connections to Greece, who acted as an intermediary between the Greek Cypriot deputation and the government, including Prime Minister David Lloyd George. Crosfield, like other British supporters of *enosis*, was a Philhellene who believed the matter to be as simple as the Cypriot Orthodox Christians being Greeks and taking the word of the deputation that the entire Cypriot Orthodox population was behind *enosis*. The matter was far more complex than that and the paper takes a broader approach to understanding the involvement of Philhellenes like Crosfield and to understanding the failure of the *enosis* movement in 1919 and 1920.

Biography:

Associate Professor Andrekos Varnava, FRHistS, was born (1979) and raised in Melbourne to Cypriot-born parents, obtained his BA(Honours) from Monash University (2001) and his PhD (2006) from the University of Melbourne. He is the author of two books in the Studies in Imperialism Series of Manchester University Press: *Serving the Empire in the Great War: The Cypriot Mule Corps, Imperial Loyalty and Silenced Memory* (2017) and *British Imperialism in Cyprus, 1878-1915: The Inconsequential Possession* (2009; paperback 2012). He has edited/co-edited six volumes: *The Great War and the British Empire: Culture and Society* (Routledge, 2017); *Australia and the Great War: Identity, Memory, Mythology* (Melbourne University Press, 2016); *Imperial Expectations and Realities: El Dorados, Utopias and Dystopias* (Manchester University Press, 2015); *The Archbishops of Cyprus in the Modern Age: The Changing Role of the Archbishop-Ethnarch, their Identities and Politics* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013); *The Minorities of Cyprus: Development Patterns and the Identity of the Internal-Exclusion* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009); and *Reunifying Cyprus: The Annan Plan and Beyond* (I. B. Tauris, 2009; paperback 2011). Additionally, he has co-edited a special issue of *Itinerario*, 38(3), 2014. He has published numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed articles in major journals, including in *English Historical Review* (2017), *The Historical Journal* (2014), *Historical Research* (2014 & 2017), *War in History* (2012, 2015, 2016), *Itinerario* (2014), *Britain and the World* (2017) and *First World War Studies* (2017) and has others forthcoming in *Journal of Modern History*, *Social History of Medicine* and *Contemporary British History*. He is an associate Professor in imperial and military history at Flinders University, South Australia and an honorary professor at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

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Michael J K Walsh

Title:

‘Commemorating a Fictional Irish Martyr on the Somme: Eric Bogle: Return to *No Man’s Land*’

Abstract:

Eric Bogle wrote the poem / song *No Man’s Land* in 1975 following a visit to a cemetery in Flanders. When it was released as *The Green Fields of France* in 1979 the song topped the Irish charts for a record breaking 10 weeks and in Australia it was declared one ‘of the most striking musical essays yet written on the futility of war.’¹ Yet *No Man’s Land* (or *Willie McBride* as it is affectionately known) has been associated with controversy too: branded a rebel song in Ulster during The Troubles, singled out by Tony Blair as a ‘peace anthem’ and prelude to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, and chosen by the Royal British Legion for the Poppy Day appeal in 2014 - provoking a petition of protest signed by over 20,000 people. All of this about a fictional Irishman killed on the Somme in 1916.

In addition to exploring the ‘complex relations between cultural and political history’² in Ireland as witnessed through this composition, this presentations also looks at the making of the documentary film ‘A Warm Summer Breeze’ (by Dan Frodsham and Michael Walsh) in which Bogle returned to the grave of Willie McBride on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme to recite his poem to the now infamous Inniskilling. To the song-writer’s surprise the grave has become a real life pilgrimage site. It says a lot about the power of ‘remembrance’ and commemoration in the era of the centenary of the Great War in Britain and its Empire.

Biography:

Michael J. K. Walsh is Professor of Art History in the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is interested in the relationship between culture and conflict, especially in relation to the Great War, and this has led to several books: *This Cult of Violence* (Yale University Press, 2002), *A Dilemma of English Modernism* (University of Delaware Press, 2007), *Hanging a Rebel* (Lutterworth Press, 2008), *London, Modernism and 1914* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), *Australia and the Great War: Identity, Memory and Mythology* (Melbourne University Press, 2016, co-edited with Andrekos Varnava), *The Great War and the British Empire: Culture and Society* (Routledge, 2017, co-edited with Andrekos Varnava), and *Eric Bogle, Music and the Great War: An Old Man’s Tears* (Routledge, 2018).

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¹ Madeleine d’Haeye (On the Record), ‘Bogle comes through loud and strong’ *The Sun-Herald*

² Aviel Roshwald & Richard Stites (eds), *European Culture in the Great War: The Arts, entertainment and propaganda 1914-1918* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 6.

Julie Willis

Title:

‘The opportunity of war: architectural education and travel’

Abstract:

The end of the Great War in 1918 brought about an enormous, coordinated effort in demobilisation of Australian and New Zealand military personnel. Like many professions, a cohort of architects were amongst those fighting in the Australian Imperial Forces and the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces. In 1917, a young New Zealand soldier recuperating from his injuries in London, was enrolled at the Architectural Association Schools (AA) by his government as a means of reacquainting him with his profession. By early 1919, some eighty-five Australians and New Zealanders, upon demobilisation from the European theatres of war, were likewise attending the AA. While their time at the AA was, for the most part, brief, these architects gained experience and connections that would have otherwise been beyond their reach.

Travel then, as now, was an enormously important part of an architect’s education, yet for Antipodean architects it had been largely out of reach: at best, a once in a lifetime trip, at a point of career maturity. Wartime, while demanding and horrifying, also brought opportunity: for enlisted architects, that meant the chance to see buildings and places, and engage with a professional milieu, whilst on leave or at war’s end. Australian and New Zealand architects relished such opportunities before returning southwards.

The wartime engagement of these architects had a profound effect on their subsequent careers: the educational benefits of travel, in particular, became a means by which they extended their international networks, their knowledge of architectural innovation and their professional acumen. Not only did these architects travel regularly themselves, they encouraged others to take up educational and experiential opportunities overseas. As such, the opportunity that the Great War had a profound effect on the architecture profession in Australia and New Zealand.

Biography:

Julie Willis is a Professor of Architecture and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning. She is an architectural historian, expert on Australian architectural history of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her current research includes writing a new short history of Australian architecture; examining the development of the modern hospital; and the transmission and translation of architectural knowledge through professional networks in architecture. She has an extensive publication record, including books, book chapters, journal articles, conference papers and articles in professional journals, and a substantial record of attracting national competitive grant funding. She has received multiple awards for her scholarship, twice winning the Australian Institute of Architects Bates Smart Award for architecture in the media. Major works include the *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture* (Cambridge University Press, 2012, with Philip Goad) and, with Kate Darian-Smith, the recently published edited collection *Designing School: Space, Place and Pedagogy* (Routledge, 2017).

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Ellen Whitton

Title:

Pleasant Remembrances and Foreboding Futures: Representations of Empire and Shifting Awareness in Britain's 1930s Genre Films.

Abstract:

The narratives produced in British cinema during the 1930s are a wonderfully eclectic mix to examine when considering representations of the nation's imperial prowess after the Great War. Alexander Korda produced a series of 'Empire adventures', championing Britain's presence in India and Africa, while Herbert Wilcox created an intimate portrayal of the life of Queen Victoria, which coincided with the centenary of her accession to the throne and the coronation of King George VI. Such adventure films and lush historical based dramas presented audiences with the image of a strong and prosperous nation; governed by individuals with unique personalities and an unyielding loyalty towards the Empire's interests. Despite this, some scenarios and dialogue embedded within these films betray the notion of stability and, instead, they reflect insecurities about the state of Britain's Empire in the mid-late 1930s.

While these genre films celebrated Britain's Empirical past, only subtly commenting on its contemporary health, other films took a more active approach when considering it and its future. The nature of espionage films, in particular, provided scriptwriters and filmmakers with an opportunity to draw attention to the threat of another serious conflict. Adapted from popular WWI novels, two spy films, *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (1935) and *The Spy in Black* (1939), carried fatalistic messages for audiences to consider, despite their narratives' original WWI settings. Hitchcock's *Thirty-Nine Steps* focused on preventing the theft of secret technological designs, a topical subject due to Britain's re-armament programme; while Powell and Pressburger's *The Spy in Black* tackled enemy infiltration and sabotage. While the scenarios in both films ended positively for Britain, the fatalistic notion of another worldwide conflict lingered.

This research intends to explore how the narratives of such genre films drew awareness to the state of Britain's Empire, through subtle and obvious means, by using the safety of the past to comment on contemporary issues and future threats.

Biography:

Ellen Whitton finished her undergraduate degree at Flinders University in 2014 before continuing on to complete history honours in 2015. Her honours dissertation was a case study on the 1943 British film *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* and it focused on how its creators, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, relied upon multiple resources to create the film's historical settings. Continuing with this thread and filmmaking duo, Ellen began her PhD project in 2016 and is focused on how the style of Powell and Pressburger's history films evolved over their long partnership. In a wider context Ellen is interested in historically set films and television series' from various decades, across the British, Hollywood and Australian industries.

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Katti Williams

Title:

'For King -- or Country? Representing a distinctively Australian national identity in First World War memorial architecture'

Abstract:

Memorials to the First World War dead are sentinels of complex symbolism. At once sombre, laudatory, didactic, and justificatory, these structures also act as surrogate tombs for the dead of an Empire-wide conflict. Yet, ironically, these monuments could also be seen as a tomb for Empire itself.

Reviewing the designs for the National War Memorial of Victoria in Melbourne in 1924, British-born Australian artist William Blamire Young described a 'deep-seated mental uneasiness that besets us all when we try to fix our personal, and still more our national, attitude to the war and its aftermath... we wonder how long it will be before it will settle down and adopt a shape which we can fix definitely in stone or bronze.' His comments encapsulate the Australian memorial debate. How could a structure honour the dead *and* celebrate national identity? What could constitute a distinctively Australian mode of design, or indeed, of ideology, to eclipse traditional Imperial modes?

This paper explores how Australian designers sought to express national identity through the medium of architecture. It draws on a range of successful – and unsuccessful - designs submitted to major Australian memorial competitions in the decade after the Armistice.

Biography:

Katti Williams is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Australian architectural history, in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne. Her PhD, completed in 2017 at the University, comprised the first sustained academic study of the Australian early twentieth century architect William Lucas. Its thorough examination of previously unstudied research material enabled a detailed evaluation of Lucas' intellectual and aesthetic outlook, and its manifestation in his unrealised First World War memorial designs. Katti's research is a nexus between art, architectural, military, and cultural histories. Her major interests include the design and interpretation of commemorative architecture, manifestations and transformations of classical precedent, soldier architects, unbuilt competitive designs, and rich architectural biography. In 2007, she was awarded a Junior Fellowship at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London. Her academic work has been published in *Melbourne Art Journal* (Australia) and *Sculpture Journal* (UK). Katti has recently guest edited an issue of *Fabrications*, titled Haunting, with colleague Rebecca McLaughlan.

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Peter J. Yearwood

Title:

‘Germans in the British Colonial Empire 1914-19: Lagos and Tonga’

Abstract:

This paper will compare the treatment of Germans in Lagos and in Tonga. Both were parts of the British colonial empire, commercially connected to Germany and with large and influential German populations. Whereas In Lagos these were essentially expatriate, in Tonga many had been settled for two or three generations and had married locally. In Lagos the German firms were closed down in November 1914, and the Germans were deported to Great Britain. The one exception was Charles Ungebauer, the longest established merchant in Lagos. He was allowed to naturalise, but this was revoked in 1918. Rather than face possible deportation to Germany, Ungebauer committed suicide. Therefore at the Armistice there were no longer any Germans in Lagos. In Tonga, the large Deutsche Handels und Plantagen Gesellschaft was placed under liquidation in 1916, and its three managers were interned in New Zealand. Other Germans sold up their firms, often to dummies, and were not deported, despite pressure from the Tongan government, which ostentatiously supported British war aims and the British war effort. The Armistice there raised questions about the return of the managers (one of whom Wellington would not deport to Germany as he had a Tongan wife), family members overseas (including one young man interned in Germany), and the treatment of large “mixed” populations, especially in Vava’u, where the young men tried to present the outcome as a German victory.

Biography:

Associate Professor Peter J. Yearwood is Leader of the History, Gender Studies, and Philosophy Strand at the University of Papua New Guinea and Joint Editor of the *South Pacific Journal of Philosophy and Culture*. A specialist in the history of the early twentieth century, he is the author of *Guarantee of Peace, The League of Nations in British Policy, 1916-1925* (Oxford University Press, 2009). His latest book, *Nigeria and the Death of Liberal England; Palm Nuts and Prime Minister, 1914-1916* has just been published by Palgrave/Macmillan as part of their “Britain and the Wider World” series.

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Bart Ziino

Title:

'The many meanings of armistice: British and Dominion responses in 1918'

Abstract:

Over its four years, the First World War produced several opportunities for definition and redefinition in public. Anniversaries of the outbreak of war, the death of significant figures, the much-delayed publication of British war aims – all provided the space in which to reassert or refine the meaning of the war and the reasons for commitment.

In total war, these moments were not just about grand strategy, but were part of the continual process of remobilising civilian populations to maintain their will to victory. How then did armistice – the end of hostilities – function to affirm or redefine the goals for which the war had been fought?

This paper examines immediate responses to armistice in the British and Dominion parliaments in November 1918, in order to detect consistencies and local variations in the conception and consequences of the war. Such an analysis also has the potential to expose the domestic politics of the war in those different locations, and to give a sense of the various meanings being attributed to the conflict in the moment when victory became a reality.

Biography:

Bart Ziino is Senior Lecturer in history at Deakin University. He has published widely on the politics of commemoration and on private sentiment in Australia during the First World War. He is author of *Australians, War Graves and the Great War* (UWA Press 2007), and editor of *Remembering the First World War* (Routledge, 2015).