   

**GLOBALISING AND LOCALISING THE GREAT WAR  
GRADUATE CONFERENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

**20 MARCH 2015**

**8.30-9.00: Registration**

*Common Room*

**9.00-9.40: KEYNOTE**

*Lecture Theatre*

‘The Bells of Hell’: What the Soldiers Sang

Sir Stephen Sedley, University of Oxford

**9.45- 10.40 Panels One & Two**

**Military & Memory:**

**Military:**

Chair – Meighen McCrae

*Lecture Theatre*

Home and Away – Training the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force, 1914-1918

Trevor Nash, University of Birmingham

*The need to provide trained aircrew for the RFC, RNAS and RAF during the First World War placed enormous pressure on a nascent and immature training system. As the BEF grew, so did the assets of Britain’s Air Service and a concomitant increase in throughput of the training pipeline was required. This could not be achieved solely in Britain and so training was exported, most notably to Canada and Egypt.*

Empires in the Holy Land: Revising the Palestine Campaign of the First World War

Elliott Bannan, University of Oxford

*This paper will be an operational military history of the Palestine campaign during WW1, fought between the Ottoman Empire and the British Empire’s Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF). An imperial approach will be coupled with a broadening in emphasis away from the all too common, congratulatory tactical narratives that are dominated by the exploits of mounted units. This paper will demonstrate how the political and strategic machinations of decision-makers in London and Constantinople influenced battlefield outcomes.*

**Memory:**

Chair – Ashley Garber

*Colin Matthew Room*

The Memory of the First World War in Gettysburg

Ian Isherwood & Sarah Johnson, Gettysburg College

*How did the First World War impact American small towns? Our paper considers the largely forgotten impact and memory of the First World War on an iconic small town and national historical site: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.*

Sites of Memory Beyond Mourning? Remembrance and Place in the War Cemeteries of the old Western Front.

Tim Fox-Godden, University of Kent

*This paper will explore how the cemeteries and memorials of the Imperial War Graves Commission act as much more than commemorative markers of the fallen within the landscape of the old Western Front. It will seek to show how the cemeteries and the architectural entities within have been designed to retain aspects of an otherwise lost geography of memory.*

**10.40-11.00: COFFEE**

*Common Room*

**11.00-12.30: Panel Three**

**Supply and Logistics:**

Chair – Calum White

*Lecture Theatre*

'Identifying a Policy: The British Admiralty and Oil in the Early Twentieth Century'.

Graham Kay, Maynooth University

*This paper will examine and trace the British Admiralty's policy towards oil from 1895 to 1914. Through international pressure and technological innovation, the Admiralty's transition from apathy towards oil to dependency ultimately led to a policy that affected British government decision making throughout the twentieth century.*

A case of ‘economic unorthodoxy’ or just ‘business as usual’?: The Railway Executive Committee and the work of Britain’s Railways during the First World War

Tanya Kenny, University of Aberdeen

*Whilst it was ‘business as usual’ in 1914 the railway companies became legally bound to the government. However, it was the organisation entitled the Railway Executive Committee that oversaw the operation and management of the railways and implemented the pre-war plans for mobilisation*

The First World War and the Cocoa Industry in British West Africa: A Case-Study of the Hazards of Periphery Economy

Olisa Godson Muojama, University of Ibadan

*The happy combination of economic institutions, market forces, and a harmonious international climate, characteristic of the first phase of the international economy (1800-1913), was rudely shattered following the outbreak of World War I in 1914. In the historiography of the Great War, its implications for African economies have been a neglected topic. Utilizing evidence from archives in Ghana and Nigeria, this paper offers an assessment of the impact of the Great War on cocoa industry in British West Africa.*

**12.30-13.30: LUNCH**

*Common Room*

**13.30-14.30: KEYNOTE**

*Lecture Theatre*

Into Hostile Camps: The Scientists Go to War, 1914-1919

Professor Roy MacLeod, University of Sydney

**14.30-16.00: Panels Four & Five**

**Representations of War & The Politics of Identity**

**Representations of War:**

Chair – Ashley Garber

*Lecture Theatre*

The Old Vic as the "Home of Shakespeare" during the First World War.

Karen Harker, Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon

*This paper will explore the role of Shakespeare at The Old Vic during the First World War, and how this theatre became the 'Home of Shakespeare'. I will analyze how cultural appropriation of Shakespeare in both England and Germany contributed to the social constructs surrounding Shakespeare and nationalism, and how the Great War impacted Shakespearean performance at the Old Vic.*

Malta in the First World War: A Tripartite Linguistic Legacy of Reportage

Hillary Briffa, King's College London

*This paper discusses the linguistic legacy of WW1 reportage in Malta, particularly in view of the colonial relationship with Britain. Three Maltese newspapers of the era, each catering to a different social stratum, are taken as case studies and qualitative discourse analysis is applied to identify embedded propagandist techniques and thereby determine whether the published text was pro-British in nature. Contextualization and theoretical analysis reveal that the ability for mass audience manipulation has been intrinsically linked with the language of publication and a disparity exists in attitudes towards the colonizers when covering domestic or international affairs.*

History of Laughter in the Trenches: A Literary Approach

Nicolas Bianchi, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon / Maison Française d’Oxford

*This paper discusses the linguistic legacy of WW1 reportage in Malta, particularly in view of the colonial relationship with Britain. Three Maltese newspapers of the era, each catering to a different social stratum, are taken as case studies and qualitative discourse analysis is applied to identify embedded propagandist techniques and thereby determine whether the published text was pro-British in nature. Contextualization and theoretical analysis reveal that the ability for mass audience manipulation has been intrinsically linked with the language of publication and a disparity exists in attitudes towards the colonizers when covering domestic or international affairs.*

**The Politics of Identity:**

Chair – Greg Hynes

*Colin Matthew Room*

The Great War in Canadian Liberal Thought: Nationalism, Britishness, and Empire, 1914-1919

Graeme Thompson, University of Oxford

*The Great War is commonly regarded as an event that affirmed Canadian nationalism and independence. But did Canadian liberals believe that participation in the conflict would extinguish their British connection? This paper examines how Canada's Great War was fought, not only in the mud of Flanders, but in political and ideological disputes over Canada's place in the British Empire.*

“Falcons of France”?: The Transnational Military Identity Politics of the Lafayette Escadrille

Jack Doyle, University of Oxford

*Using pilots' memoirs and letters, this paper examines changing transnational perspectives on soldierhood and masculinity during the First World War through the experiences of the Lafayette Escadrille. An American volunteer squadron in the French Aéronautique Militaire, the Lafayette Escadrille was widely publicised and celebrated for military and diplomatic purposes. This paper deconstructs the squadron's subsequent self-creation as a mythical elite to shed light on the unique role First World War aviators played in influencing popular understandings of war and legitimate violence.*

The Ruminations of an Exiled Japanese Anarchist in Occupied Belgium

Nadine Willems, University of Oxford

*This paper examines the diary of a Japanese anarchist, exiled and stranded in Brussels for several months at the outbreak of the Great War. It highlights the visionary reflections of this unlikely observer of the conflict and focuses our attention on the Far East as the epicentre of future global conflagration.*

**16.00-16.30: COFFEE**

*Common Room*

**16.30-18.00: Panel Six**

**Globalising and Localising the Great War:**

Chair – Aoife O’Gorman

*Lecture Theatre*

Between Mobilisation and Experience: Rural Communities and Rurality in Sicily, May 1915 – June 1916

Sean Brady, Trinity College Dublin

*This paper uses a regional case-study of Sicily in the first year of Italy’s Great War to examine the rural dimensions of the civilian mobilisation process. It explores concepts of rurality that informed how contemporaries saw the war effort, the different challenges faced by rural communities in wartime, and the contradictions that developed between the ‘real’ and ‘imagined’ war experiences of rural populations.*

The Use of Local Forces in the Middle Eastern Theater of World War One

Clothilde Houot, Université Paris/ University of Oxford (GLGW Programme) / Maison Française d'Oxford

*In the wake of the First World War centenary, studies of the Middle East war theater as well as of the employment of so-called "native troops" increased significantly. Taking into account such historiographical progress, this paper aims to reassess a still neglected topic, i.e. the role played by local forces in the Middle Eastern campaigns whether as an offensive, defensive or relief force.*

Between Center and Periphery: the Portuguese Empire in Africa and the First World War

Ana Paula Pires, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

*This paper seeks to identify and analyse the main political objectives of the First Republic to the African warfront, questioning, therefore, why with the African Empire so embedded in the national imagination, this front where Portugal was present between 1914 and 1918 and for which the country mobilized some 50,000 men ended up almost always overshadowed by the non-consensual intervention of the Portuguese army in Flanders.*

**Optional Conference Dinner from 19.15**