

War, Health and Humanitarianism

16th June 2017, 11am-5.30pm

Weston Library Lecture Theatre



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'War, Health and Humanitarianism' brings together historians studying conflicts from the medieval period to the modern world in order to discuss the potential impact of historical research on present day policy.

Looking at conflicts from the medieval period to the twentieth century, this symposium discusses humanitarian interventions which seek to mitigate the suffering in war of both combatants and civilians. What motivates humanitarian actors and organizations, like the Red Cross and Oxfam? How effective are they? What defines humanitarianism in a world of nation states? The closing session will reflect on the day's papers and we will aim to discuss a variety of questions and controversies, including:

Michael Barnett's *Empire of Humanity* (2011) argues that 'ages of humanitarianism' began in 1800. How can we define humanitarianism and how does history from the medieval period to the contemporary world help us to understand change and continuity in motivations and policies?

Is political neutrality feasible or necessary?

Why are there so many national and international humanitarian organisations?

How have relief and development organisations competed and collaborated to mitigate suffering from conflicts?

How have changing forms of warfare influenced humanitarian practices?



'Unloading dried milk from MITROPA at Fernando Po, July 1968', by Duncan Kirkpatrick, Oxfam. From 'Africa Photographs: Nigeria', MS. Oxfam COM/5/1/51, Bodleian Libraries Special Collections, Reproduced with permission from Oxfam.

This event is free, but places are limited. TO BOOK,
<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2017/jun/war-health-humanitarianism>

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Welcome – 11.00am

Dr Rosemary Wall, Senior Lecturer in Global History, School of Histories, Languages and Cultures, University of Hull, and Bodleian Libraries Sassoon Visiting Fellow, University of Oxford

Chrissie Webb, Archivist, Bodleian Libraries Special Collections / Saving Oxford Medicine Project / Oxfam Archives Project

11.10am

Medieval

Dr Malcolm Vale, Emeritus Research Fellow in History, St John's College, University of Oxford

'Did the ideas and ideals of medieval chivalry ever lead to a more "humanitarian" conduct of war?'

Discussion led by Professor Peter H. Wilson, Chichele Professor of the History of War, All Souls College and Faculty of History, University of Oxford

11.50am

Nineteenth Century

Dr. James Crossland, Senior Lecturer in International History, Liverpool John Moores University

'The Medical Melting Pot: Transatlantic Humanitarianism and Military Medicine in the Franco-Prussian War'

Discussion led by Dr. Erica Charters, Associate Professor of the History of Medicine, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Director, Oxford Centre for Global History, Wolfson College and Faculty of History, University of Oxford

12.30-1.15pm Lunch (on your own)

1.15-2.45pm

First World War

Dr Samiksha Sehrawat, Lecturer in the History of Medicine and South Asia, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Newcastle

“Most willingly and loyally given”: Military Medical Care and the Politics of Philanthropy in the British empire during the First World War’

Dr Jaclyn Granick, Newton International Fellow, Faculty of History, Junior Research Fellow, St Peter's College, University of Oxford

‘Jewish Humanitarianism and International Health Projects in the Great War Era’

Dr Mary Cox, William Golding Junior Research Fellow, Brasenose College, Departmental Lecturer, Faculty of History, University of Oxford

'Humanitarianism in the wake of the First World War'

2.45-3.10pm Coffee

3.10-4.45pm

Twentieth Century

Kerrie Holloway, PhD Candidate, School of History, Queen Mary University of London

'Mirroring the British Government's "Neutrality": The British Red Cross and the Spanish Civil War'

Dr Rebecca Gill, Senior Lecturer in History, School of Music, Humanities and Media, University of Huddersfield

'Democracy in the Nursery: Save the Children and humanitarianism for the under-5s (1919 - 1945)'

Dr Rosemary Wall, Senior Lecturer in Global History, School of Histories, Languages and Cultures, University of Hull, and Bodleian Libraries Sassoon Visiting Fellow, University of Oxford

‘Cyprus, Vietnam and Nigeria: Comparing British and French humanitarian responses to post-colonial civil wars – the British Red Cross, Oxfam, and Croix-Rouge Française’

4.45-5.30pm

Closing discussion: History and Policy

Discussants include –

Dr Alasdair Brooks, Heritage Manager, British Red Cross, and Honorary Visiting Fellow, School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester

Dr. Tom Scott-Smith, Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration, Fellow of St. Cross College Oxford, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford

Rosemary Wall, Erica Charters and Malcolm Vale

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