

Rethinking Concepts, Terms and Topics

The 4th International Conference of the
Military Welfare History Network

July 9-11, 2025

University of Graz

Main Building

HS 01.14 & 01.15

Universitätsplatz 3

8010 Graz



Programme

Wed., 9 July

3:00-4:00 p.m.	Registration	HS 01.15
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Welcome Remarks – Introduction	
5:15-6:45 p.m.	Keynote I Maren Lorenz (Bochum): Beyond the Messiness of War – Conceptual and Terminological Challenges to Historicising Military-Civil Entanglements Comment: Frithjof Nungesser (Graz)	
6:45-20:00 p.m.	Get Together	Foyer UB Graz

Thur., 10 July

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Registration	HS 01.14	HS 01.15
9:00-10:30 a.m.	Panel I: Multilayered Dimensions of Caring: Experiences and Coping Strategies of Relief Workers Chair: Heidrun Zettelbauer (Graz) Ingrid Sharp (Leeds): The Costs of Caring: Discourses of Burnout and Ill-health among Humanitarian Relief Workers, 1914-1924 Corinne Painter (Leeds): Healing and Uprising: The Intersection of Welfare Work and Female Activism in Germany 1914-1924 Emma Newlands (Strathclyde): 'That hinterland between the grim and the absurd': Experiences of British Army Medics on Active Service, 1939-1945	Panel II: Logics of Military Welfare: Strategies and Ruptures Chair: Paul Huddie (Dublin) Anri Delpont (Stellenbosch): Navigating Duty, Citizenship and Social Justice: South African First World War Ex-Servicemen and the Complexities of Military Welfare Provision and Exclusion in a Global Context, 1914-1939 Colin D. Moore (Honolulu): Service, Stigma, and Survival: The US Veterans Administration's Response to the AIDS Crisis, 1981 – 2000 Jana K. Lipman (Tulane): "It doesn't always happen to someone else": The US Army's Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy, 1978-1982	
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break		
10:45-12:15 p.m.	Panel III: Im Material Dimensions and Bodily Traces: Processing Care Work Chair: Heike Karge (Graz) Anna E. Gehl (Berlin): The Second Battlefield: Female Medical Volunteers and their Fight for the Bodies in their Care Sarafina Pagnotta (Ottawa): The Art of Care During Wartime: Bluebirds, Autograph Books and Soldier Art in the First World War Chandini Jaswal (Chandigarh): CALLING ON WARIS SHAH* Contextualising the Silence of Women in Partition through Amrita Pritam's Oeuvre	Panel IV: Military Medical Welfare in Early Modernity: Infectious Diseases as Catalyst for Public Health Development Chair: Maren Lorenz (Bochum) Dirk Modler (Bochum): Health, Hospitals and Hostilities: Battling Disease during the War of the First Coalition (1792-1797) Christian Promitzer (Graz): Burning Down the House: Protecting the People from the Plague Epidemic of 1813-1816 in the Habsburg Military Border Sabine Jesner (Vienna): Habsburg State Welfare and Venereal Diseases in the 18th Century	
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break		



1:15-2:45 p.m.	Gendering Vulnerability and Care during the 'Greater War': Book Presentation and Round Table Discussion Gendering Vulnerability and Care during the 'Greater War', 1912-1923. Conversations Across Borders, ed. by Ingrid Sharp and Heidrun Zettelbauer (Palgrave Macmillan 2025)	HS 01.14
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2:45-3:15 p.m.	Coffee Break
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HS 01.14

HS 01.15

3:15-4:45 p.m.	Panel V: Shifting Perspectives: Re Reading Sources, Archives and Knowledge Production Chair: Sabine Haring-Mosbacher (Graz) Cécile Chemin (Dublin): From Epicentres to Ripples - Excavating Meanings in the Military Service Pensions Archive (Ireland) Marie Findeisen (Florence): Emmy Freundlich's 1916 Challenge to the Idea of Warrior Homesteads Dat Manh Nguyen (Amsterdam): Intergenerational Welfare Support for Agent Orange Victims: Vietnam, the United States, and the Enduring Wound Culture	Panel VI: Gendering Military Welfare Politics: National Dimensions and Differences Chair: Werner Suppanz (Graz) Charles Hewat (Sydney): "No Obligations to Either". Australian Military Welfare Provision for Deserted War Brides After the First World War Rosemary Cresswell (Oxford): British Voluntary Aid Societies in the Second World War and the Impact of Recruitment Shortages on Military Welfare and Healthcare Oksana Vynnyk (Maynooth): Constructing War Disability and Gender in Interwar Poland
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4:45-5:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
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5:00-6:30 p.m.	Keynote II Ruth Nattermann (Munich/Leipzig): Rethinking Humanitarianism and Gender	HS 01.15
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Fr., 11 July

HS 01.14

HS 01.15

9:00-10:30 a.m.	Panel VII: Narrating Violence and Vulnerability: Writing and Transforming Biographies Chair: Viktoria Wind (Graz) Louise Earnshaw (Leeds): Negotiating Vulnerabilities: Masculinity, Hunger, and the Boundaries of Violence in the First World War Daniel Gunz (Vienna): Queering the "Legacy" of Victoria Savs: Transgression, First World War Heroism, and National Socialist Contradictions Blanka Matkovic (Warwick) : 'Warriors in Peace': Tackling Wellbeing Challenges while Rethinking Identity, Sense of Belonging and a Post-War 'Normal' among the Croatian Army Veterans	Panel VIII: Between Functionalisation and Marginalisation: Conceptualizing War Welfare Discourses Chair: Sabine Jesner (Vienna) Matthew Neufeld (Saskatchewan): Caring for the Enemy? Colonel Bullen Reymes and Dutch Prisoners of War in Mid-Seventeenth Century England Martin Kauder (Cologne): Maintaining the Sons of the Fatherland – Governing Poverty in Early 19th-Century Württemberg Teresa Petrik (Vienna) and Julia Heinemann (Antwerp): Who is "worthy" of Support? Perspectives of Disability History and Labour History on Invalids, Former Soldiers and their Families in Eighteenth Century Austria
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10:30-11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break
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11:00-12:30 p.m. **Panel IX: Entangled Structures and Processes : Spaces - Mobilities – Transitions** **HS 01.14**

Chair: Kamil Karczewski (Graz)

Anne D. Peiter (La Réunion): The "Civilisation of the Military". Reflections on Communities of Violence between Civilian and Military Actors in the Genocide against the Tutsi of Rwanda (1994)

Eliska Bujokova (New Brunswick): Naval Care Provision and Slavery in the Maritimes

Michael Robinson (Birmingham): 'Strangers in a Strange Land': British Veteran Migrants in Australia during the 1930s

12:45-1:30 p.m. **Closing**

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Concept and Organisation:

University of Graz MWHN Conference Team 2025

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