

# The First World War in a Gender Context

## Topics and Perspectives

### International Conference

September 29 – October 1, 2011

The conference is an event of the research platform “**Repositioning of Women’s and Gender History in an Altered European Context. Networking – Resources – Projects**” of the University of Vienna in cooperation with the “**Arbeitskreis Historische Friedensforschung**”.

**Concept:**

Christa Hämmerle (University of Vienna, Austria)  
Birgitta Bader-Zaar (University of Vienna, Austria)  
Oswald Überegger (University of Hildesheim, Germany)

**Organization:**

Michaela Hafner (University of Vienna, Austria)

**Registration** required until September 15, 2011:  
[neuverortung.geschlechtergeschichte@univie.ac.at](mailto:neuverortung.geschlechtergeschichte@univie.ac.at)

[www.univie.ac.at/Geschichte/Neuverortung-Geschlechtergeschichte](http://www.univie.ac.at/Geschichte/Neuverortung-Geschlechtergeschichte)  
[www.akhf.de](http://www.akhf.de)

This international conference intends to reflect on the necessity and potential of a gendered history of the First World War, focusing on five selected topics that appear to be constitutive for the field: the complex relationship between home front and front line, experiences of violence, forms of visualization of the war, peace efforts, and the impact of war on concepts of citizenship.

It takes the upcoming centenary of 2014 as an occasion for in-depth discussion, reviews of previous studies, and conceptualizations of future research perspectives. The conference is specifically interested in strengthening comparative and transnational approaches. In bringing together scholars from various academic backgrounds it aims at reframing the catastrophe of mass mobilization and mass killing in the years 1914–1918 in a gender context.

Seminarraum Alte Kapelle  
Campus of the University of Vienna  
Spitalgasse 2–4  
1090 Vienna

Design: Veronika Helfert & Brigitte Semanek

**Thursday, September 29, 2011, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM**

**:: Welcome and Introduction ::**

**Heinz W. Engl** (Rector des.)  
**Michael Viktor Schwarz** (Dean of the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies)  
**Karl Vocelka** (Chair of the Department of History)

**Christa Hämmerle, Birgitta Bader-Zaar, Oswald Überegger** (Concept)

**:: Panel I: Home Front ::**

**Manon Pignot** (Amiens/France): French Boys and Girls in the Great War: The Use of Gender for a History of Childhood Experiences of the First World War

**Silke Fehlemann** (Düsseldorf/Germany): “Mobilization of Mothers”: German Mothers of Soldiers during World War I

**Claudia Siebrecht** (Dublin/Ireland): The Female Mourner

**Alison S. Fell** (Leeds/UK): The Afterlives of French and British First World War Heroines

**Commentator:** Gunda Barth-Scalmani (Innsbruck/Austria)

**Moderator:** Birgitta Bader-Zaar (Vienna/Austria)

**Thursday, September 29, 2011, 2:30 PM–6:00 PM**

**:: Panel II: Front ::**

**Marco Mondini** (Trento/Italy): The Construction of a Masculine Warrior Ideal in the Letters from the Front: an Italian Case

**Matteo Ermacora** (Venice/Italy): Women Behind the Lines: The Friuli Region as a Case Study of Total Mobilization 1915–1917

**Susan Grayzel** (Oxford, MS/USA): The Baby in the Gas Mask: Air Power, Chemical Warfare, and the Gendered Division between the Fronts during the First World War and its Aftermath

**Jason Crouthamel** (Allendale, MI/USA): “We Need Real Men”: The Impact of the First World War on Germany’s Sexual Reform Movement

**Commentator:** Christa Hämmerle (Vienna/Austria)

**Moderator:** Peter Becker (Vienna/Austria)

**Friday, September 30, 2011, 9:30 AM–12:00 noon**

**:: Panel III: Violence ::**

**Dorothee Wierling** (Hamburg/Germany): Communicating War Violence: Imaginations and Descriptions in the Writings of a Berlin Family during the Great War

**Gabriela Dudeková** (Bratislava/Slovakia): Suffering and Catharsis: Gendered Perceptions of Violence during the Great War and its Aftermath

**Marie-Emmanuelle Reytier** (Hamburg/Germany) & **Dorota Kurpiers** (Opole/Poland): Rape Victims and Rapists: an Introduction to Sexual Crimes Committed by German, Austro-Hungarian and French Troops, 1914–1925

**Commentator:** Michael Geyer (Chicago, IL/USA)

**Moderator:** Oswald Überegger (Hildesheim/Germany)

**Friday, September 30, 2011, 1:30 PM–3:45 PM**

**:: Panel IV: Visualization ::**

**Beatriz Pichel** (Madrid/Spain): Photography and Masculinity during the First World War in France

**Joëlle Beurier** (Paris/France): Women, Photographs and Non-Fighting Men: A Redefinition of Masculinity in Wartime

**Julia Köhne** (Vienna/Austria): Visualizing War Hysterics: Strategies of Feminization and Re-Masculinization in Scientific Cinematography, 1916–1918

**Commentator:** Monika Bernold (Vienna/Austria)

**Moderator:** Nina Verheyen (Cologne/Germany)

**Friday, September 30, 2011, 4:15 PM–6:30 PM**

**:: Panel V: Peace ::**

**Bruna Bianchi** (Venice/Italy): Towards a New Internationalism: Pacifist Journals Edited by Women (1914–1919)

**Ingrid Sharp** (Leeds/UK): “A Foolish Dream of Sisterhood”: Anti-Pacifist Debates in the German Women’s Movement, 1914–1919

**Thomas F. Schneider** (Osnabrück/Germany): “Then Horror Came into her Eyes ...”: (De-)Constructions of Masculinity in German Anti-War Texts on World War I, 1914–1918

**Commentator:** Laurie Cohen (Innsbruck/Austria)

**Moderator:** Karin M. Schmidlechner (Graz/Austria)

**Saturday, October 1, 2011, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM**

**:: Panel VI: Citizenship ::**

**Nikolai Vukov** (Sofia/Bulgaria): Women’s Public Responses to War and Issues of Citizenship in Bulgaria during World War I

**Virginija Jureniene** (Kaunas/Lithuania): Lithuanian Women during World War I: Activities and Aspirations

**Tina Bahovec** (Klagenfurt/Austria): Of Women’s Armies, Heroic Mothers and Insane Men. Strategies and Discourses of the National and Political Mobilization of Carinthian Slovene Women from 1917 to 1920

**Allison Scardino Belzer** (Savannah, GA/USA): Making Women into Citizens: The Great War in Italy

**Commentator:** Birgitta Bader-Zaar (Vienna/Austria)

**Moderator:** Christa Hämmerle (Vienna/Austria)


We would also like to announce the following public lecture:

**:: Wiener Vorlesung ::**

**Michael Geyer** (Chicago, IL/USA): Krieg und Gewalt im langen 20. Jahrhundert: Eine globale Perspektive (working title)

**Time:** Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 7:00 PM

**Venue:** Wiener Rathaus, Festsaal, Feststiege I, Lichtenfelsgasse 2, 1010 Wien

 **wiener vorlesungen**