THE GREAT WAR AND CULTURE

A conference on the unseen but momentous changes the Great War wrought on those who lived through it

Thursday March 20–Saturday March 22
University of Notre Dame London Center
1 Suffolk Street,
London, SW1Y 4HG

The Fallen Man (Der Gestürzte), Wilhelm Lehmbruck, 1915/16, cast stone
World War I, the “great seminal catastrophe of the century,” as George Kennan memorably put it, had a profound impact on every aspect of life thereafter. Devastatingly apparent were the death and mutilation of tens of millions, the destruction of towns and cities along the fronts, and the collapse of empires. A less visible, but no less important impact was the scarring of the mental and spiritual landscape of all those who lived through it, permanently changing their entire perception of the world and themselves.

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Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 20

5:30 p.m.       Welcome and Opening Remarks
                   Robert E. Norton, University of Notre Dame
                   Helmuth Kiesel, University of Heidelberg

6 to 7 p.m.     Keynote Lecture
                   Michael Geyer, University of Chicago
                   “The Emotions of War . . . and Their Expression”

7:15 to 8:45 p.m. Conference Reception

Friday, March 21

8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Panel I: Ideas and Propaganda at War
                   Moderator: Robert Norton, University of Notre Dame
                   Gangolf Hübinger, European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder)
                   “Ernst Troeltsch — Protagonist of the War of Cultures”
                   Angus Mitchell, University of Dublin
                   “The Green Circle: Anti-War Trouble Makers and Irish Propagandists”
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.  Panel III: Cultural Theory and Historiography after the Great War  

Moderator: Heather Perry, University of North Carolina Charlotte  
Rüdiger Görner, Queen Mary, University of London  
“Disfiguration Versus Reconfiguration. The Emergence of Cultural Theory from the First World War”  
Martial Staub, The University of Sheffield  
“The Lost Ecumene: What Has Comparative History to do with World War I”

10:30 to 11 a.m.  Coffee break

11 a.m. to Noon  Panel III: Defending and Communicating Neutrality  

Moderator: Angus Mitchell, University of Dublin  
Thomas Wiesner, German Historical Institute, Paris  
“The Price for Being Neutral: Carl Spitteler and the Case of Switzerland”  
Anna Fattori, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”  
“Spitteler’s Rhetoric: Re-reading Our Swiss Point of View”

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.  Panel IV: The Great War and Law  

Moderator: Peter Körng, University of Heidelberg  
John Duck, University of Notre Dame  
Luc Reydams, University of Notre Dame and Catholic University of Lublin  
“The Great War and International Law”

2:30 to 3:30 p.m.  Panel V: The Great War and Religion  

Moderator: Harry Liebersohn, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Gerhard Besier, Dresden University  
“The Great War and Religion in Comparative Perspective”  
Patrick Houshian, University of Chicago  
“Defeat and Resurrection: War and Catholic Society in Germany and Austria-Hungary, 1914–1922”

3:30 to 4 p.m.  Coffee break

4 to 5 p.m.  Panel VI: The Great War and Philosophy  

Moderator: Martial Staub, The University of Sheffield  
Peter Körng, University of Heidelberg  
“The Rise and Fall of Erlebnis”  
Peter Hous, University of Würzburg  
“The Perpetual Peace in the Great War”

7 to 9 p.m.  Conference Dinner at the National Portrait Gallery
Saturday, March 22

8:30 to 10 a.m.  Panel VII: Literature at War

Moderator: Carsten Dutt, University of Notre Dame

Wolfgang Pyta, University of Stuttgart
“Literary Imagination of the War in France and Germany and its Political Implications”

Nicolas Breuget, Blaise Pascal/Clemenceau University
“German and French Soldier-Writers of the Great War”

Peter Paul Schnierer, University of Heidelberg
“The End of English Pastoral War Poetry”

10 to 10:30 a.m.  Coffee break

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  Panel VIII: The Visual Arts

Moderator: Anna Fattori, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

Laura Engelstein, Yale University
“Angry Art: Russian Satirical Postcards of World War I”

Gabriela de Marco, University of Palermo
“The Illustrations of War by Italian Artist Enrico Prampolini”

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  Panel IX: Music

Moderator: Rüdiger Görner, University of London

Regina Sweeney, Dickinson College
“Soldier’s Soundscapes”

Harry Liebersohn, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
“The Democratization of Music after 1918: Jazz, Composers, Audiences”

12:30 to 2 p.m.  Lunch

2 to 3 p.m.  Panel X: Gender

Moderator: John Dask, University of Notre Dame

Martha Hanna, University of Colorado at Boulder
“Wann-mom, Dagmar’s Nurses, and the ‘Crisis of Marriage’ in Wartime Britain”

Annette Kiss-Schirck, University of Heidelberg
“H.E.’s Great War”

3 to 3:30 p.m.  Coffee break

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.  Panel XI: Medicine and Material Culture

Moderator: Peter Paul Schnierer, University of Heidelberg

Julie Anderson, University of Kent
“‘Simples’ in Army: the Trauma of Amputation in the First World War”

Heather Perry, University of North Carolina Charlotte
“The Mobilization of the Kitchen”

5:30 to 6 p.m.  Closing Panel: The Great War’s Significance — Then and Now

Moderator: Robert Horton, University of Notre Dame

Sean McMeekin, The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame
“July 1914: Countdown to War”

Sönke Neitzel, London School of Economics
“Europe in the 21st Century: Comments on the Aftermath of Both World Wars”
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