

The Autum 2025 Military Welfare History Network Symposium

## 'War, Trauma and Emotional Injury'

Date: Thurs 6 – Fri 7 Nov. 2025 Venue: Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham

## 06/11/2025.

Location: Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham.

1500-1530hrs: Welcome coffee

1530-1630hrs: Panel One: Psychology, neurology and mental wounds

[Chair: Michael Robinson]

Dr Eri Nakamura (Sophia University, Tokyo)

'The Aftermath of Mass Violence and Defeat: Psychological and Moral Injuries of the Imperial Japanese Soldiers'

Dr Robert Dale (Newcastle University)

'Researching and Treating Trauma in of the Ukrainian Republican Neurosurgical and Neuropsychiatric Hospital for Invalids of the Great Patriotic War'

**1630-1800hrs:** Keynote Address – Dr Owen Rees (Birmingham Newman University) [Chair: Michael Robinson]

'Navigating the ancient world with modern diagnoses'

A trip to the Staff Pub and a conference dinner will follow Dr Rees's lecture. The latter will take place at the Edgbaston Hotel and Conference Centre.

## 07/11/2025.

Location: Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham.

0830-0900hrs: Registration and welcome

0900-1030hrs: Panel Two: Short-Term and Long-Term Trauma

[Chair: Michael Robinson]

Oscar Owen (University of Wolverhampton)

'The Emasculation of Capture for British Soldiers in the First World War'

Dr Kristin O'Donnell (Birmingham Newman University)

'The Cultural Politics of Commemoration: the Soldier-victim in Post-Brexit Britain in We're here because we're here'

Dr Ana Catarina Pinho (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

'Silence as a Medium of Intergenerational Trauma in Postcolonial Portugal'

1030-1045hrs: Coffee break

1045-1215hrs: Panel Four: The First World War panel

[Chair: Anna Elisabeth Gehl]

Nicola Nash (University of Birmingham)

'Forgotten Women: The Impact of social narratives and gender bias on the civilian women of Britain during the First World War'

Didier Brouns (University of Birmingham)

'In Fields of Ruin, A Bloom of Hope: British Soldiers, Nature, Trauma, Emotions and Coping on the Western Front'

Delaney Beck (University of New Brunswick)

''A real debility of the nervous system'': A Methodological Study of First World War Canadian Nursing Sisters' War Trauma'

1215-1315hrs: Break for lunch

1315-1445hrs: Keynote Address – Prof Emeritus Michael Roper (University of Essex)

[Chair: Mike Reeve]

'Locating trauma: a personal reflection and a family history'

1445-1545hrs: Panel Five: Writing Trauma

[Chair: Robert Dale]

Ayta Yurukcu (University of Eastern Finland)

'The Crimean War and Russo-Ottoman War in Finnish Media, Locals' Letters and Collective Memory, 1854-1878'

Dr Anna Elisabeth Gehl (Frei Universitat Berlin)

'A Conflict of Interest: War Correspondents in the Second half of the 20th Century'

1545-1600hrs: Coffee break

1600-1730hrs: Panel Six: Emotional Distress

[Chair: Michael Robinson]

Tiago Rocha e Melo (University of Lisbon)

'Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori: evaluating emotional distress in Frontinus and Onasander (1st century AD)'

Dr Mike Reeve (Open University)

'Miles of smiles? Wartime tobacco consumption, embodiment and the emotions'

Dr Otman Bychou (Sultan Moulay Silmane University)

'Love, War, and Emotional Injury: Moroccan veterans' testimonies of denied marriages in France during WWII'

1730hrs: Close of proceedings

This event is one of the three-part 2025-26 Military Welfare History Network series, which is generously supported by the Wellcome Trust through the Social History of Medicine.





