



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
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TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



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CENTRUL DE
CULTURĂ URBANĂ
Cluj-Napoca

Grupul de Lucru pentru Istorie Militară
Working Group for Military History

Military Welfare History Network 2026 Conference

*Civil Society, Civic
Engagement and Its
Impact on Military
Welfare*



18-20
JUNE 2026

FACULTY OF HISTORY
AND PHILOSOPHY

NAPOCA STREET
NO. 11

"KING
FERDINAND" AULA

DAY 1 – THURSDAY 18/06/2026

Location: [“King Ferdinand” Aula (11 Napoca str, 1st floor)]

13.00-13.30 – Registration and informal talks

13.30-14.00 – Opening ceremony & speeches

Dr. Ovidiu Ghitta, Dean of the Faculty of History and Philosophy

Dr. Vlad Popovici, MWHN member & conference convenor from
UBB - HiPhi

Major General Bogdan Cernat, Commander of the 4th Infantry
Division „Gemina”

Dr. Anamaria Pop, Center for Urban Culture – Cluj-Napoca City Hall
and Local Council

Dr. Matei Ciurică, Head of the Cluj-Napoca Branch of the
National Military History Museum „King Ferdinand I”

14.00-15.15 – Keynote Lecture 1

Dr. Lynn MacKay (Brandon University, Canada)

*‘Helping soldiers’ wives: public philanthropy and charity in Britain
during the Crimean War’*

Chair: Dr. Vlad Popovici

15.15-15.30 – Coffee Break

15.30-16.30 – Panel 1: Medical Military Welfare

Dr. Juhász Balázs (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary)

'Madness in captivity – a Transylvanian officer in Italian hands (1916)'

Dr. Oana Habor (Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie „Iuliu Hațieganu”, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

'Surgical Practices in Wartime: The Romanian Sanitary Mission at Stara Zagora, Bulgaria (1912)'

Chair: Dr. Elena Crinela Holom

16.30-17.00 – Special presentation:

Dr. Crinela Holom and **Dr. Angela Lumezeanu** (Babeș-Bolyai University, Centre for Population Studies, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

'Reconstructing the Human Losses and Social Consequences of the First World War in Transylvania: A Database of Invalids, Orphans, and Widows'

Chair: Dr. Vlad Popovici

17.30-18.30 – Guided visit to the local Military History Museum

19.00 – Dinner (provided by the organizers)

DAY 2 – FRIDAY 19/06/2026

Location: [“King Ferdinand” Aula (11 Napoca str, 1st floor)]

09.00-10.15 – Keynote lecture 2

Dr. Ismini Pells (Oxford University, UK)

‘The extreme thirst of Roger Walmesley and his wife: the politics of the parish and the administration of military welfare in the English Civil War’

Chair: Dr. Paul Huddie

10.15-11.15 – Panel 2. Military Welfare in Transylvania

Dr. Florin Ardelean (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

‘From religious guidance to medical care: military welfare initiatives in the regulations of the Transylvanian army (XVII century)’

Konrad Gergely (European University Institute, Florence, Italy)
(online)

‘Conscription at Grassroots: the 1880 Kolozsvár District Recruits’

Chair: Dr. Matei Ciurică

11.15-11.30 – Coffee break

11.30-11.45

Dr. Paul Huddie (Military Welfare History Network)

Military Welfare History Network News and Updates

11.45-13.15 – **Panel 3: Women, Orphans, Families and Military Welfare**

Dr. Edina-Tünde Gál (University of Warsaw, Poland)

'War Orphans in the Romanian Parliamentary Debates (1919–1923)'

Dr. Jane Brooks (University of Manchester, UK)

"'An Ideological Knife Edge": Female nurses posting to the No. 1 Mobile Military Hospital in the Desert War, 1941-1944'

Dr. Brittany Huner (National WWII Museum, New Orleans, USA)

(online)

"'A Higher Degree of Modesty:" Protecting the Welfare of American Servicewomen During World War II'

Chair: Dr. Luminița Dumănescu

13.15-14.30 – **Lunch (on-site catering)**

14.30-15.30 – **Dr. Paul Huddie** (Military Welfare History Network)

'Military Welfare: what is it and why does it matter?'

Chair: Dr. Lynn MacKay

15.30-17.00 – **Panel 4: Military Welfare and Civic Engagement in the Habsburg lands**

Dr. Nebiha Guiga (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria)

'Military Welfare and Voluntary Organizations in the Habsburg Empire: The Case of the Verein zur Unterstützung der österreichisch-kaiserlichen Invaliden'

Dragoș Ianc (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

'Civil Society and Military Reform: the 1847 Transylvanian Recruitment Law'

Dr. Vlad Popovici and Dr. Mihaela Mehedinți (Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

'Military Welfare, Civic Engagement and Nationalism among Transylvanian Romanians before 1919'

Chair: Dr. Florina Raita

17.00-17.15 – **Coffee break**

17.15-18.15 – **Panel 5: Military Welfare and Politics**

Dr. Róbert Szabó (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary)

'Between state frameworks and civic initiatives: the role of civil society in the educational and social welfare of soldier-students in Hungary during World War I'

Dr. Aurel Lazăr (GE Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Târgu Mureș, Romania)

'Lobbying Welfare at Vichy: Doriot's Visit and the Pétain–Darlan Negotiations over French Eastern Front Volunteers as a Civil-Society Claim (1941–1942)'

Chair: Dr. Paul Huddle

19.30 – **Dinner (provided by the organizers)**

DAY 3 – SATURDAY 20/06/2026

Location: [“King Ferdinand” Aula (11 Napoca str, 1st floor)]

09.00-09.35 – Special presentation and discussion:

Dr. Tamara Scheer (University of Innsbruck), **Dr. Juhász Balázs** (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary), **Dr. Vlad Popovici, Daniela Botoș, Lorena Luca, Claudia Culda** (UBB Cluj-Napoca)
ANIMA Project: Microhistory, Military Welfare History and Citizen Science

09.45-11.45 – Panel 6: Charity and Humanitarianism in Military Welfare

Dr. Lidia Trăușan-Matu (‘Carol Davila’ University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania)

‘Carol Davila and the Red Cross: The Genesis of a Humanitarian Society in Romania’

Dr. Minyoung Kim (Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea)

‘The Indian Soldiers’ Fund: The Functions of a Private Charity Fund and Its Impact on the Military’

Dr. Anri Delpont (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

“Manufacturing Normality”: Civil Society, Philanthropy and the Johannesburg Artificial Limb Factory in the Rehabilitation of Empire Amputees, 1918 – 1930s’

Dr. Shoji Nakamura (Chiba University, Japan)

‘Building the Associational Veterans’ Welfare State in the post-World War II United States: Focusing on the Local Veterans’ Information Centers in New York and Los Angeles’

Chair: Dr. Vlad Popovici

11.45-12.00 – **Coffee break**

12.00-13.30 – **Panel 6: Online Panel**

Dr. Michael Robinson (University of Birmingham, UK)

“Older Men” in the “Depressed Areas”: Middle Aged and Working-Class Great War Veterans in Great-Depression-era Britain’

Matt Eaton (University of Buckingham, UK)

‘Keeping the troops mentally fit, and morale high: the changing relationship between the British Army Welfare Service and the Entertainment National Services Association (ENSA) in Italy 1943-46’

Muhammed Junaid (University of Hyderabad, India)

‘From “Problem” to Participant: Mappila Muslims, Colonial Military Welfare, and Civic Engagement in British India, 1900 – 1945’

Chair: Dr. Paul Huddie

13.30 – **Close of proceedings**

13.45 – **Farewell lunch (on-site catering) and informal discussions**

Funding & Support

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Working Group for Military History

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