

A workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

Perhaps nothing demonstrates the complexities of globalisation more clearly than war. The international reverberations of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have painfully exposed the interconnected nature of modern economies and our vulnerability to forces beyond our control, prompting anxious speculations about deglobalisation. Yet, experts agree that the more likely outcome is not isolation, but instead, changing geographies of connection. Similarly, recent historical scholarship has complicated conventional understandings of war as a dividing force, instead emphasizing both the connections and disconnections that it brings in its wake. In wartime, enemies are dehumanised in government propaganda, travel is disrupted, and trade blockades are enforced.

Wartime is associated with absences, interruptions, and detours, as lives are lost, scientific exchanges are cut off, and mobilized populations find themselves transported far from home. Yet, war can also create new spaces of interaction and encounter, sometimes across enemy lines. Some of these exchanges are illicit, such as smugglers who evade military blockades, or spies who penetrate enemy territory. Others are more overt, between prisoners of war and their captors, or surgeons who treat enemy combatants. War can provide the impetus for new connections and the widening of geographical horizons in the pursuit of resources, sometimes with lasting consequences. War, in other words, is the optimal lens through which to trace global connections and disconnections.

Your participation is understood to imply consent to photographic and video recordings for internal purposes, scholarly communication and publicity.
Should you have any concerns, please contact Sophie Eisenried at sophie.eisenried@lmu.de.

Dis:connections in wartime

Concept and organisation:
Callie Wilkinson
Tom Menger

**24–25
April
2024**



Please register by 17 April 2024:
<https://www.globaldisconnect.org/registration/>
A link will be sent for remote participation upon registration.

Käte Hamburger
Research Centre
global dis:connect
LMU Munich
Maria-Theresia-Straße 21
81675 Munich
gdc@lmu.de

Wednesday, 24 April 2024

10:00 Registration

11:00 Welcome and Introduction

11:30 Experiences of internment

Jannik Keindorf (Tübingen), On stranger tides: prisoners of war in Kingston during the French Revolutionary Wars, 1793-1803

Christoph Jahr (Humboldt University, Berlin), The civilian internment camp at Ruhleben as a hub of (de)globalisation in the Great War

Haimanti Roy (University of Dayton, Ohio), Internment in the colony: Germans, Italians and the Japanese in British India during WWII

Chair: Takuma Melber (Heidelberg)

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Dis:connections in arts and literature

Nic Leonhardt (LMU Munich/global dis:connect), Dis:connections and detours in the international theatrical exchange during WWI

Sarah Panzer (Missouri State), Playing their part: music in the history and memory of Bandō POW camp

Lahcen Ait Idir and Soukaina Aouaki (Hassan II University), Looking back in pied-noir texts: (dis)connections during the French-Algerian War and world wars

Chair: David Motadel (LSE/global dis:connect)

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Information and intermediaries

Mikko Toivanen (Free University Berlin), Too fast to get right: the telegraph and dis:connected reporting on the Aceh War in northern Europe

Franziska Heimbürger (Sorbonne), Bilingual sphinxes – French military interpreters after the First World War

Simon Graham (University of Sydney), 'Grey-zone' connectivity: relating secret intelligence to war and international order, 1894-1945

Chair: Valeska Huber (University of Vienna/global dis:connect)

18:30 Conference dinner

Thursday, 25 April 2024

9:00 Colonial dis:connections?

Amerigo Caruso (University of Bonn), A (dis)connected war: Italian and German perceptions of colonial violence in Algeria, ca. 1830-1850

Alex Kay (University of Potsdam), Colonial warfare in Europe: the British Army on the Western Front, 1914-1918

Janne Lahti (University of Helsinki), Fighting for settler colonial belonging and futures: violent (dis)connections and the search for Finnish living space in Russian-Finnish borderlands during the world-war era

Christin Pschichholz (University of Potsdam), The brutal friend: the reception of the Armenian genocide and German interpretations

Chair: Tom Menger (global dis:connect)

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Family and migration

Holly Furneaux (Cardiff University), Dis:connected children: international adoption in the age of empire

Ginger S. Frost (Samford University), The Aliens Acts, gender and war in Britain: continuity over change in the early 20th century

Gail Savage (St Mary's College, Maryland), Family ties among allies and enemies during and after the Second World War: transnational challenges to marriage

Chair: Michael Goebel (Free University Berlin/global dis:connect)

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Economy and infrastructure

Gerard Fitzgerald (University of Stavanger/University of Virginia), The real tug of war: New York Harbor, railroad gridlock and the severe winter weather of 1917-1918

Cristiano La Lumia (Naples Federico II), Remaking the world economy (1914-1930): economic nationalism, national security, and the confiscation of enemy property

David Stenner (Christopher Newport University), Wartime rationing and decolonisation in colonial North Africa, 1939-45

Chair: Judd Kinzley (University of Wisconsin at Madison/global dis:connect)

15:30 Concluding remarks