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# DISSENTING VOICES AND THE EVERYDAY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Contribute to a lively exchange of ideas at this three-day event at The National Archives

8-10 September 2016

This three-day conference will examine the Home Front during the First World War. It will look at those who were left behind, and explore life and society in the immediate aftermath of the war.

The conference will bring together academics, independent researchers, community groups and museum curators, among others, to generate dynamic discussion and networking opportunities. The event provides an opportunity for delegates to showcase recent research, foster new collaborations across the country and between different groups of researchers.

The conference is organised by The National Archives and the Everyday Lives in War Engagement Centre, on behalf of the five national World War One Engagement Centres funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

We welcome contributions from researchers working on the topics listed below.

## Themes

The conference will explore four major themes:

- **Life on the home front(s)**  
We are looking for contributions with an international as well as a British angle.
- **Dissent**  
As well as conscientious objection and political agitation, we also want the conference to explore the subtleties of dissent socially, religiously, and culturally.
- **Aftermath**  
We want to explore such issues as cultural memory, as well as immediate matters such as post-war riots, gender relations, food, and housing.
- **The unfamiliar**  
We are interested in exploring the less well-known aspects of dissent and everyday life, including the value of little-used sources and the interpretation of unusual artefacts associated with the First World War.

We encourage proposals that speak to one of these themes from the perspective of any geographical location. Potential topics include, but are not limited to,

- **Political**
  - MI5 workers
  - Radical political activism

- Government responses to dissent
- Female suffrage
- Workers' rights/unionism
- **Religious**
  - Spiritualism
  - Christian Science responses to war
  - Prophecy
  - Religious pacifism
- **Social and cultural**
  - Theatre and entertainment
  - Disorder – e.g. food riots in 1919 – Luton Town Hall burned down.
  - Profiteering
  - Hoarding
  - Problems with First World War pensions
  - Fortune-telling
  - Advertising
  - Newspaper reportage
  - Alien, prisoner and refugee life
  - Comedy/satire (music hall, literary, cartoons etc)
- **Gender**
  - Fashion (men and women)
  - Female suffrage
  - Female farm and factory work
  - Children and role modelling (male and female)
  - Choosing motherhood and non-childbearing lives in war and after
- **Material culture**
  - Graffiti
  - Pension records
  - Internment camp magazines
  - Registration cards, Belgian refugees
  - School logbooks
  - Photography
  - Food
  - Marketing and advertising

## **Format**

We invite proposals for presentations that take the form of group discussions, workshops, 20-minute talks, performances, or posters. Guidelines and a workshop on creating an effective poster will be offered in advance for those considering this format.

## **Interested in participating?**

We accept applications from individuals (whom we will then match to others working on similar topics), and from groups who wish to propose their own panel and involve relevant academics. We invite academics to present with independent and community group researchers. No affiliation to an academic institution is required to submit an application.

Please send a brief description of no more than 300 words outlining the topic you wish to share and your preferred format of presentation (i.e. round-table, talk, workshop, performance or poster).

Closing Date: 15 October 2015

Proposals should be emailed to: [firstworldwar@herts.ac.uk](mailto:firstworldwar@herts.ac.uk)

Enquiries can be directed to: Owen Davies, The University of Hertfordshire or Jessamy Carlson, The National Archives

## **Interested in attending?**

Tickets will be on sale from early 2016