

HOME FRONTS: GENDER, WAR AND CONFLICT

Women's History Network Annual Conference

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Abstracts



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WOMEN'S HISTORY NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

When the Fires Burned Too Close to Home: Southern Women and the Dislocations of the Home-front in the American Civil War

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The role of women in the American Civil War is in many ways a story in two parts, or possibly three. For Northern women, the war was largely a distant event, its battlefields represented in static images of photographs from the front, its horrors conveyed well enough in the many thousands of letters, wounded men, and coffins, sent home, but its impact muted by distance, its dislocations far removed from their daily lives. For white Southern women, by contrast, the war was in their front yards, in their homes, many of which served as hospitals or as headquarters for the troops, and in their gardens, the temporary, and sometimes permanent, graveyards for the Confederate dead. And for both black and white women, the dislocations of war were theirs, whether they found themselves as refugees, fleeing the invading Union armies, or as slaves, seizing the opportunities the war brought to flee toward freedom. This paper explores this dislocated world, between home-front and battle-front, between slavery and freedom, between the masculine military environment and the female domestic one. Its focus is on those points where these worlds collided in order to identify and define the collective strategies, and the implications of these, deployed by Southern women, black and white, seeking to survive in a world at war.

Susan-Mary Grant is Professor of American History at Newcastle University. She is the author of North Over South: Northern Nationalism and American Identity in the Antebellum Era (2000), The War for a Nation: The American Civil War (2006), and The Concise History of the United States of America (CUP, 2012). Her research explores the broader social impact of the Civil War, especially on veterans and their families, from which she has published "Mortal in this season": Union Surgeons and the Narrative of Medical Modernisation in the American Civil War" in the Social History of Medicine (2014).

Gendering the Local Home Front (1914 - 19)

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Histories of life in wartime tend to focus on the extraordinary and the unusual; the remembered; and what was new or different. This applies to all modern war but especially to what many see as the first truly 'modern' war, the Great War. However, if we change our focus to the everyday, the banal and often forgotten details of daily life, we may find that continuities are as important as changes. This is particularly the case when we consider the home front. Everyday life had to go on, despite the challenges, privations and sorrows of this new kind of 'total' war. Yet it is clear that whichever combatant nation one looks at, there was a diversity of experience on the home front dependant on place – hence local home fronts – but also on class, on age, and particularly on gender. And that these experiences varied over time. In order to understand how place (the city, the suburb, the town, the village) shaped everyday experience on the home front, this lecture will draw on examples from across and beyond Britain. It will ask how everyday life on local home fronts challenged or reinforced existing gender relations, and whether this had any lasting effect beyond the peculiar circumstances of wartime.

Karen Hunt is Professor of Modern British History at Keele University and is currently Head of Humanities Research at Keele, as well as Chair of the Social History Society (2014-17). Her publications cover many aspects of the gendering of politics (locally, nationally and transnationally) particularly from the 1880s to 1939, including Equivocal Feminists (1996) and Socialist Women (2002) (with June Hannam). Her current research juggles a number of intersecting interests: the life and politics of Dora Montefiore; interwar women's politics, focusing on the local and the everyday; and women and the politics of food in the First World War. She is an advisor to the AHRC/BBC World War One at Home project in the West Midlands.

Revisiting the history of the public history of women and war

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War created instant history from 1916 and ever since the history of women and the First World War has been a synonym for thinking about a distinctive female contribution, about the politics of gender and the cultural and social history of war. Looking again at the history is a way of thinking about sources and method, thinking again about how far historians 'disturb the ground on which they stand' or how far they build new memorials to the past.

Deborah Thom has taught history at Robinson College Cambridge for 27 years to social scientists, historians and students of History and Philosophy of Science. Her PhD and major book are on women's work and the First World War and she has researched and published on feminism, education, child psychology and family. She is currently writing a book about corporal punishment in 20th century Britain and is a member of the academic advisory board for the Imperial War Museum gallery on the First World War.

German Women and the Home Front in the Second World War

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This paper will examine six themes, which together encompass many of the key aspects of life on the home front for German women during the Second World War. First, it will address food and consumption - in particular, the availability of foodstuffs, rationing and its impact. Second, and closely related to this, it will consider the way in which women contended with food shortages by turning to the black market and 'hamstering'. Third, it will discuss Nazi propaganda and education initiatives aimed at women during the war - such as the 'struggle against waste', how to cook appetising dishes with limited foodstuffs, how to collect herbs and leaves and their uses. Fourth, it will look at clothing - in particular, the shortage of material and the need for mending. Fifth, it will discuss women and work during the war. Hitler was concerned about keeping up popular morale on the home front and therefore much consideration went into when and how German women were going to be obliged to work for the war effort. Women were called up for wartime labour service comparatively late, in 1943. This created a double burden for women, both in industrial and urban areas and in the countryside, as women had to undertake work in the cities or run their farms, as well as to continue their familial and household duties. The call up of women to war work was inconsistent, however, and they benefited from the import of some 7 million foreign labourers, which allowed the opportunity for many German women to evade work duties. Lastly, this paper will discuss the impact of Allied bombing in the cities on women's lives. Children were evacuated to the countryside and women had to cope with their utility services being cut or their homes being destroyed. A consideration of all these aspects of life on the home front will illustrate the impact of the Second World War on German women's lives.

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ABSTRACTS

Herbs, herbalists and the home front

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Within a few months of the outbreak of war in 1914 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries issued a leaflet, *The cultivation and collection of medicinal plants* to encourage the growing of herbs in wartime. Commercial production had declined in Britain over the course of the nineteenth century and by 1914 demand by the pharmaceutical industry was met by supplies from German and Austrian territories. This paper will explore the role of women in responding to the call to increase domestic production and will argue that their experiences on the home front had a profound impact in shaping British herbalism in the interwar period. The wartime campaign capitalised on the growing popularity of herb gardening in the early twentieth century, a pastime popular with female gardeners (Northcote, *The book of herbs*, 1912). Its leading campaigners included Ada Teetgen who published guidance for growers (Teetgen, *Profitable herb growing and collecting*, 1919) and Maude Grieve, who provided practical advice and tuition.

While the British state supported herb production, it discouraged the practice of medical herbalists and opposed the bill for their registration in 1923. However efforts to marginalise herbalists were undermined by the effects of the wartime campaign, including increased popular interest in growing and using herbs and better commercial networks, as well as the entrepreneurial flair of a new generation of practitioners, spearheaded by female herbalists. The Herb Society, established in 1927 by Hilda Leyer, offered members access to specialist advice while the concept 'Culpepper' shops offered medicinal, culinary and beauty products in modern retail settings. These initiatives reshaped the practice of British herbalists in the first half of the twentieth century.

Home Front - Across the Sea: Home Front Action in WWII Refugee Camps Explored

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On the last day of 1943, the first group of 40 thousand Yugoslav refugees began their journey that would eventually lead them into tented desert camps in Egypt. Most of the refugees were women and children, but they did not address themselves as refugees – in their minds they were people, a nation, and Partisans. They considered themselves part of the Partisan National Liberation Army and as such fought war in their own way, according to their own abilities. Far from home and their husbands, women had to raise their children, nourish them and provide education. They strove for their own education, whether to gain literacy or a profession, as they prepared themselves to become the only provider after the war in case their husbands would not return from the frontlines. They took part in the war effort by relinquishing clothing and medicine secretly sending them to Yugoslavia; they took up sewing to manufacture uniforms for the fighters at the front lines. In addition, they took up nursing, to take care of the wounded Partisans flown into the camps from the frontlines at home.

The paper will aim at asking the following questions: can a Home Front be away from home? Is Home Front limited to the land or is it limited by its nature? In a foreign environment women did not live in the framework of bare life, but were able to achieve a qualified life, more so than they would if they would stayed in occupied homes. Thus, could they have given the same support to the war effort if they would not leave their homes?

"From Colonial Widow to Imperial War Hero: Madge Watt and the Beginning of the Women's Institutes"

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Madge Watt's ideal rural life in Canada was shattered in the summer of 1913 with the tragic death of her husband. To escape the national media attention that came in the wake of her husband's highly publicized suicide, she promptly left rural British Columbia to seek a quiet place in which to recover from her shock and get through the grieving process. She was spending time at the country home of her friend Josephine Godman in Sussex, England, when war broke out the following summer and she answered the call to serve the Empire. Chapter Four of my forthcoming book *A Great Rural Sisterhood* entitled, "Role Reversal: From Colonial Widow to Imperial War Hero," explains how, in an act of reverse

colonialism, Madge Watt introduced the Canadian idea of Women's Institutes to the United Kingdom, suggesting that if rural women were organized into a systematic scheme for planting victory gardens, the challenge of ensuring a domestic food supply for the duration of the war would be solved. Because of her "outsider" status, Watt's ideas were not immediately accepted, but between 1915 and the end of the war, Women's Institutes became an extremely popular phenomenon, and hundreds of local branches were established, due in no small part to Watt's indefatigable travels from county to county. Analyzing how Watt performed in her role as an organizer of rural women, one is struck by the strategies she employed to negotiate her way through the challenges that presented themselves to her in Britain where, even for a Canadian who had great loyalty to the Empire, the cultural differences between her new setting and her homeland were great.

'This Righteous War': religious agendas and patriotic activism in the Anglican Mothers' Union and Girls' Friendly Society on the home front 1914-18

Sue Anderson-Faithful, University of Winchester *Sue.Faithful@winchester.ac.uk*

In 1914 the Mothers' Union (1876) and the Girls' Friendly Society (1875) were established Anglican organisations with members across the British Empire. The MU which recruited mothers, and the GFS whose constituency was unmarried working women, prioritised chastity and temperance, and envisaged women as exemplars of Christian values to their families and wider society. Patronised by royalty and overtly patriotic the MU and GFS asserted their Christian agenda as integral to the identity, wellbeing and cohesion of the nation. The outbreak of what they perceived as a just war provided an opportunity for the MU and GFS to demonstrate their understanding of women's citizenship that emphasised duty, service and sacrifice. The MU encouraged its members to support the enlistment of their sons and to pray for victory. The GFS, drawing on its existing network of accommodation lodges assisted in the repatriation of members from abroad. It also drew on its tradition of philanthropic activism to mobilise its members to provide temperance canteens and rest rooms for munitions workers. The MU and GFS jointly participated in initiatives to alleviate hardship on the home front and raised funds to support the war effort but practical activism was underpinned by their religious agenda. The MU and GFS used the notion of resistance to a morally deficient enemy to promote the significance and legitimacy of their religious values. Moral rectitude was asserted as necessary to secure divine sanction towards victory. The anxiety of war was perceived as heightening receptiveness to religious matters and as an opportunity for recruitment. The sacrifice of bereavement was drawn upon to reinforce bonds of membership across the empire. However the social upheaval of war was also perceived as challenging notions of appropriate gendered and moral conduct which stimulated post war campaigning towards moral regeneration.

Portraying the Homemaker on the Home Front: Housewives and Mothers in WW2 Film

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The munitions worker, the land girl and members of the women's armed forces were glamorised in World War Two films such as *Millions Like Us* (1943). Yet representations of the vast majority of women who in WW2, as in WW1 were housewives were rather more contradictory. Housewives lives, quietly coping with everyday life were perhaps not generally considered sufficiently dramatic to carry the weight of the narrative. There were notably exceptions in feature films: *Mrs Miniver* (1942) and the commercially unsuccessful *The Great Day* (1945). The documentary film movement was however very different; Ruby Grierson's ground-breaking, *They Also Serve* (1940) made women's mundane domestic caring and supportive activities appear heroic. This paper will therefore examine the portrayal of rural women that followed Grierson's film; paying particular attention to the portrayal of their role hosting women and children evacuated to the countryside. Texts to be considered will include: *Living with Strangers* (1941) *The Countrywoman* (1942) and *Britain at War* (1946).

Evacuation was a primarily domestic experience and yet these documentary films often emphasised an increasingly role for voluntary organisations, local and national government in children's lives; which could be seen to foreshadow the introduction of the post-war welfare state. Furthermore the easily accessible images from these texts have become the 'putty' from which myths of the Second World War as an impetus to social change have been shaped. This paper will however suggest that historians face a complex task as they attempt to tease out the relationship between the portrayal of housewives and mothers in such films and women's experience of everyday life on the Home Front. For both image and lived experience were more contradictory, unstable and varied than it may at first appear.

Women in Classical Music on the British Home Front during the First World War

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Although the First World War had less impact on women's lives than is sometimes supposed – as Susan Grayzel has noted, for example, the overall economic and social status of women demonstrated 'few, if any, notable transformations'[1] – nevertheless, it is possible to identify genuine (if sometimes temporary) transformations in the lives of women at this time. One area in which this is true, but which has so far remained somewhat in the scholarly shadows, is that of women in the world of classical music. Music was key to the experience of many on the home front and was the means by which many women mobilised their resources to provide both practical and emotional support to civilians and soldiers alike. This paper proposes that by examining this aspect of women's cultural history during the years 1914-1918, certain significant practices and attitudes may be identified. The evidence reveals both welcome developments and worsening attitudes. I will concentrate on illuminating women's involvement in classical music on the home front by using examples from both the specialist musical press and commentary in the national press of the time. In this way, I trace changing attitudes towards women's roles within music, and chart the vital role women played in the musical world in various ways. I will use primary sources to identify references to women's public involvement in music, that is, in its performance, composition and dissemination, at a time when the public significance of music was regularly debated. In particular, I will establish that women were the key players, in both organisation and delivery, in the provision of music for troops on the home front. This brief survey highlights some of the rich resources available to scholars interested in the cultural history of women during the First World War, and in notions of the home front generally.

'Women Wanted for Evacuation Service': Government Policy and the Work of the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) during the Second World War

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The mass evacuation of children and mothers at the beginning of the Second World War is a familiar narrative but what happened to the elderly and infirm between 1939 and 1945 is rather less well-known. Drawing on official documents from local and national archives, contemporary newspaper reports, diary extracts and some oral testimony, this paper will explore the ways in which the Government planned for the evacuation of this group on the home front and the role played by the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) in moving them.

The WVS recruited women from all over Britain offering them the opportunity to undertake no less than 33 different branches of work. Based on the principle that people should give of their 'muscle, their sweat and their thought rather than of their purse' ensured that women from across classes could contribute in a wide variety of roles. As the only voluntary organisation which had an official role in the operation of the evacuation of the elderly and infirm, the WVS found itself having to negotiate complex, complicated - and at times ill-conceived - Government Policy in order to ensure that Britain's elderly were not simply ignored or abandoned.

The commencement of heavy aerial bombardment over London in September 1940 brought accounts of hardship among the aged and the chronic sick. The public shelters, in particular, reflected stories of suffering among the old and infirm. Following the findings of a committee set up to investigate conditions in public shelters it was recommended that the aged and infirm should be evacuated as their presence was perceived as a danger to health and morale. Focusing on the relationship between the WVS in the London district of Camberwell and the Lincolnshire district of Gainsborough, the resourcefulness and networking skills of this organisation in attempting to relocate this vulnerable group can be revealed.

Ellen Wilkinson and Home Security 1940-1945

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The image of women usually portrayed on the Home Front is a positive one. They are seen to have been essential to the war effort, taking an active role in industry, agriculture, civil defence, and community welfare: many served with the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the Women's Auxiliary Fire Service, the Land Army and other uniformed services; large numbers worked in factories and others worked as mechanics, engineers, ambulance drivers,

electricians and plumbers. Some became secret agents and underground operators working in occupied Europe. Even so, there is a myth that women tended to play a non-political supportive role, leaving the running of the war to male MPs like Winston Churchill. High politics, war and diplomacy continue to be seen as masculine fields with women largely relegated to the domestic, or Home Front. It is safe to say that the more public roles played by politicians like Ellen Wilkinson (1891-1947) remains forgotten.

This talk will examine Wilkinson's responsibilities during the war and assess the extent to which her role challenges another oft-held myth that a new national war-time consensus emerged as British people buried their political, class and gender differences to fight a common enemy.

'For Home and Country': shifting relations of power around gender amongst housewives associations during the Second World War

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The wartime experiences of British women during the years 1939-1945 have been well documented by historians in recent years. However as Samantha Clements has argued, much of this work has tended to focus on three areas: the daily lives of women during wartime, on whether or not there was a temporary revival in the feminist movement and if the war had a longer term impact on the status of women in post-war society. This paper will argue that a more in depth study of housewives associations and their activities during the war not only draws greater attention to their wartime contribution but also raises interesting questions about gender relations, the meaning of women's citizenship and voluntary action during wartime.

As Sonya Rose has argued women's citizenship during the Second World War 'had complex and often contradictory meanings and consequences' and this is apparent in the way in which mainstream women's groups grappled with the new demands made on women during wartime. This paper will explore how a number of the most popular and successful voluntary women's organisations, including the Mothers' Union (MU), the National Council of Women (NCW), the Women's Institute (WI) and the Townswomen's Guilds (TG) adapted to their new wartime role and how they reacted to the sometimes conflicting demands made upon their members.

It will be argued here that the war years represented a daunting challenge for voluntary women's groups but also presented them with a unique opportunity. This opportunity allowed them to channel their activism into protecting the rights of housewives and mothers during the war. This in turn allowed for a shift in power relations around gender whereby voluntary women's groups were able to enhance the status of women citizens during wartime and argue that in the post-war world women's voices must be heard.

Women's Work in the First World War: Evidence from the Accountancy Profession

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By November 1915 a quarter of ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) members and two-thirds of articled clerks had enlisted. As this was coupled with an increase in the demand for accountants particularly in the war ministries, it meant that there was a shortage of chartered accountants generally. But did this mean that women would be admitted as members of ICAEW to fill the gap? Women had been trying unsuccessfully since the 1890s to gain admission, a feat that was finally achieved in 1919. It is tempting but problematic to suggest that this was a fitting reward for the work performed by women during the war. In reality, however, ICAEW was forced to admit women following the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act and throughout the war the profession as a whole had resisted any attempt to admit women as members. But what is perhaps more surprising is that despite the significant numbers of women who were employed in wartime as accountants and audit clerks the number of women who applied to train as chartered accountants after 1919 can be counted on the fingers of one hand. In this paper I will look at why this should be. By looking at the work women performed during the war and the type of women who undertook this work I shall try to explain why the increase in the number of females employed as accountants in the war did not translate into a similar increase in female admissions to ICAEW after the war.

Beauty on the Move

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This paper will examine the uses and representations of the powder compact focusing on its height of popularity -late 1920's and throughout the Second World War. I will argue that this object through its representation in cinema and advertising, particularly in women's magazines - became an object which as well as adding to the accoutrement of beauty practices and the constructed of notions of femininity - also could be seen as central to the development of a 'modern' female identity in this period. Located within the non-rationed products, by the board of trade, this became an object to be recognised as the projection/reflection of modern femininity as well as 'keeping women's morale intact'.

This object changed the way in which women applied their make up and significantly where they applied it. Make-up application no longer had to take place in the privacy of the powder room but could be come the public spectacle of glamour and modernity. The performance of beauty in the public sphere must also be seen within the context of the wider sifts in women's roles in society at this time.

The links with cosmetics brands and Hollywood led to very visual displays of cosmetic uses both on and off screen and through the opening of flagship salons in London by several American brands. Max Factor booklets such as 'The Art of society make up by Max Factor Hollywood ' clearly demonstrates the links between modernity glamour and celebrity. The workingwoman is also recognised in the many beauty booklets and magazines I examined 'Beauty Hints for Tired Workers'

World War Two saw the young female workforce mobilised in the war effort; and through oral history interviews I originally conducted in 1996 I will discuss the cosmetics experiences of my respondents pre war and during their deployment in Sheffield's munitions factories and steel works or as land girls across the country. Thus exploring the way in which the compact and associated beauty products were appropriated into these ordinary women's changing lives.

"Here come the girls!" The origins of the Women Volunteers at the Army Pay Office Woolwich from August to October 1914

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In August 2014 will witness the centenary of the start of the First World War. It is considered that much of the historical aspect will be focused on the all-male fighting army, with little attention being paid to the women's contribution during the course of the war. Yet also in August 1914 the first women to volunteer for the war effort made their presence felt in perhaps the least researched part of the British Army, the Army Pay Services, which has remained merely a footnote in history. The role played by the women volunteers at the Army Pay Office, (APO), Woolwich during the early months of the Great War is evidenced by the expansion of a Regular and Regular Reserve Army from a peacetime strength of 200,000 in August 1914, to nearly 1 million by November 1914.

The deployment of women volunteers at APO Woolwich was totally unofficial and was not part of any directive from the War Office. However, there had been a tradition of voluntary philanthropic assistance during the 19th century from military officers and their wives that supported the families of soldiers. This influence of regimental philanthropic assistance increased during and after the Crimean War. The women volunteers who assisted at the Army Pay Office Woolwich as it reorganized from peace to war were an extension of the tradition of regimental philanthropy.

Medical Missionary Women on the Home Front in the First and Second World Wars

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Medical missionary women working in the slums of London on the eve of both world wars occupied a unique position through which gendered experiences of war on the Home Front can be studied today. Thousands of women worked in the capital in medical missions to the poor as physicians, nurses, dispensers, almoners, home visitors, and midwives in the early twentieth century. During times of crisis, their education and qualifications as medical professions, while being excluded from combat because of their gender, afforded these women unparalleled opportunities, both personally and professionally.

Many of these women took up new positions outside of medical missions - for instance, during the First World War, the head of the Bermondsey Medical Mission, Dr Selina Fox, became the first woman to be appointed governor of HM Prison Aylesbury. Many other remained in their positions within London's medical missions working to meet the needs of their patients. During war, these ranged from frontline support of victims of air bombing raids, to material support of families who suffered more acutely in war, to the emotional and spiritual support of 'courageous wives and mothers'. Others, yet, left the Home Front to serve as medical support staff on the frontlines of battle.

This paper will explore the diverse stories of these women and their contributions to practical and emotional survival on the Home Front in the First and Second World Wars. It will show changes over time in how medical women supported the work on the Home Front and, even more importantly, how those efforts were received by those they tried to help.

Sustaining British Women's Hospitals for Women in War and Peace

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By 1914, 13 British hospitals providing medical services for women were staffed exclusively by women. Of these, six were specialist and seven were general hospitals. Together, they represented one of the most substantial and visible achievements of the Women's Movement. The role of women doctors and nurses was widely legitimated by their high profile contribution to the WW1 war effort. But only one new women's hospital for women was established after 1918 and the growth of the existing women's hospitals largely stagnated. 30 years later, when these hospitals were absorbed into the NHS, they had ceased to be a significant force in women's health.

Historians have argued that war, despite dividing the Women's Movement, dramatically enhanced the status and options available to women. This paper examines one example of attempts to maintain the momentum of feminism through war and depression by examining the responses of the Elizabeth Garret Anderson Hospital, the largest and oldest women's hospital for women, to the WW1, WW2 and the inter and post war periods of austerity. It examines why this relative stagnation might have occurred. In particular it explores adaptations both to war and austerity of the management structure of the institutions and the women who worked in the hospital, especially the nursing staff.

The paper presents a set of management accounts to evaluate attempts by the hospital to maintain the momentum of the women's community by continuing to mobilise philanthropic support for separatist women's institutions. It concludes that, by 1948, the hospital was because to reliance on female funding particularly vulnerable to the financial restraints affecting the voluntary hospitals as well as to ideological shifts which created tensions creating tensions in the acceptance of all woman institutions. The paper speculates on ways in which this may have affected the impact of the welfare state on women. Suggesting that the perception of widely shared deprivation and the high level of civilian mobilisation, commensurate with that of serving soldiers, evidenced in the example of this institution, provides an insight into the high level of acceptance of the NHS, despite meagre provision for the needs of women staff and patients.

"When the Home Front is the War Front: Non-Combatant Women in Wartime South Vietnam"

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This paper will examine the lives of South Vietnamese women who lived in or relocated to urban spaces like Saigon to avoid hot conflict zones and seek opportunity. These women often struggled to endure in an atmosphere of economic inflation, occupation by foreign soldiers and an unstable government, all while fulfilling home front responsibilities like income generation and caring for families. Intimacy and relationships with American soldiers, whether sexual or otherwise, represent one of the most remembered ways women on the South Vietnamese home front survived. Through roles such as office workers, girlfriends or prostitutes, Vietnamese women who engaged with American GIs through the 1960s and 1970s challenged societal norms in a risky gamble for wartime survival. Those willing (or forced) to participate in intimate relationships with Americans played a crucial role at this nexus of war front and home front. Their position had the potential to bring them great profits from deep American pockets and in the process upset local elite social structures. Along with this opportunity, however, came great risks of working with and among a temporary occupying force. Violence against women, disease, unwanted pregnancy, and the eventual sense of abandonment created real threats to women's lives and livelihoods. As part of my larger dissertation project on GI-civilian intimacy during the American War in Vietnam,

this paper will explore the impact of gender, sexuality, and non-state actors on transnational foreign relations and war's impact on society through the lens of the Vietnamese women's experience. In particular, I propose that the close proximity and occasional merging of home front and battlefield placed female agency and contrasting masculine suppression of female populations in sharp focus for policy-makers on both sides.

Laboratory Wives and Test Site Widows: Cold War Women of Los Alamos

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This paper will discuss the identities, labor, and family lives of women in the scientific community of Los Alamos in the years after World War II. The weapons scientists and engineers of Los Alamos constructed their identities as men, cold warriors, and Americans largely in the weapons laboratory. Young scientists who arrived at Los Alamos after World War II were literally "warriors," their attitudes forged in the crucible of wartime experience. Seeing the atomic bomb as "the winning weapon" of the World War II, they embraced the Cold War mission that equated national security with developing America's nuclear capability. Their wives' activities and identities were shaped by the unique demands for order and security of a national weapons laboratory, and their resistance to or acceptance of the authority and ideology that governed it. Those who stayed in this one-industry community surrounded by fences and guards until the mid 1950s supported the laboratory's mission by assuming responsibility for child-rearing and social welfare systems, as well as cultural, recreational, and domestic life. They sought to maintain the kind of stable, patriotic, warrior families that Cynthia Enloe has noted in contemporary active military and diplomatic wives; and at a time when Americans of their class and race idealized a domestic culture of family togetherness.

Housewives of the Home Front: Testimonies from Wartime Diaries (1939-1945)

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Based on the examinations of Mass Observation material, wartime diaries in particular, this paper presents a narration of the British Kitchen Front during the Second World War through the testimonies of wives and mothers facing the wartime reality.

Whilst a number of studies have discussed the role of women involved in the war effort, not much has been said about the ordinary housewives and their wartime experiences. This paper contributes to a better understanding of the worries faced by spouses and mothers, as well as their everyday life difficulties, resulting from the rationing, shortage and disappearance of their usual commodities. Food in particular was significantly involved in the life of these women, the wartime restrictions provoking various and numerous complications on a daily basis as well as health concerns for their children.

Demonstrating the importance of the concept of the 'good wife and mother' and its influence on these women's perspective, this paper presents their reactions and their adaptations to wartime restrictions, sometimes with actions unlikely to have existed, or even been imagined, prior to the war. From 'doing without' to the efforts made to 'keep it as normal as possible' we will see that the challenging wartime food situation resulted in new priorities and behaviours for these wives and mothers trying to sustain a family and preserve their children well-being.

Keep the home fires burning.....

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Housewife, do your bit as well and fight against expense,
As bravely as the men folk give their all in our defence.'

So reads the introduction to Housekeeping in war-time in *The Best Way Book No 3* (ca 1916). Wartime cookery presents challenges and opportunities for the cook. This paper proposes that a study of food on the home front during World War One begins with an understanding of diet, food consumption and the domestic economy at the outbreak of the war. Advances in dietetics, and nutrition emphasised food values, and technology had made a wider range of preserved and processed foodstuffs available. Greater numbers of the public were eating out, for pleasure and leisure. Britain imported much food from its empire.

Cookery books and household manuals of the period suggest that this was a time of change, especially for women. The works of Florence Jack (1914) and Mrs Peel (1915) developed the themes of: *Woman's Kingdom* (1905) Willoughby Wallace, and Congreve's (1913) *The one maid book of cookery*. They indicate that there would be fewer domestic servants, and whilst this might empower women, it gave the housewife greater responsibilities.

Utilising period newspapers, books and magazines, cookery on the home front will be presented in the context of wartime, and the post-war period of austerity. For example, the *Daily Graphic* of August 5th 1914 announced that war had been declared, and that there may be problems with food supplies. However, on the back page Queen Alexandra's French chef was pictured bidding farewell to the head chef of Buckingham Palace as he left Britain to fight for France.

This was a period of great social change, especially on the home front. It fell to housewives and mothers to make the best of limited ingredients and resources to feed their families. Theirs was a vital role for Britain in the European context, and for the difficult post-war period of austerity.

'Angels or citizens: caring for the wounded on the home front'

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The proposed paper will look at the role of women as nurses on the Home Front, and at the impact this work had on their lives. Apart from the hundreds of qualified nurses who remained in Britain, mostly with the Territorial Force, many more women from all walks of life joined the VADs and undertook Red Cross training in basic nursing. Questions to be considered will include what made the women join, what did they expect and how did they cope with the shock of the unprecedented injuries and disabilities from which the returning soldiers suffered? The illustrated paper will draw on the first-hand accounts of women working in the medical arena from 1914-1918, including Drs Louisa Garrett Anderson and Flora Murray, the doctors who ran the Endell Street military hospital in London.

"Fright of sex": Emotion and British national identity

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During World War Two, the rigid sexual constraint which had typified British culture over the past half a century continued to erode. This article examines the changes taking place in the emotional and sexual culture during WWII through the lens provided by records of group-analytic therapy sessions with women held in the 1940s. Sigmund Heinrich Foulkes, a Jewish psychoanalyst trained in Germany, developed group-analytic therapy, with the aim of contributing to the creation of a democratic society in which people would operate without reliance on authority. All the female participants were voluntary attendees, living in their homes and engaged in paid employment or domestic labour. Sexuality was a topic of major importance. In the sessions in the 1940s, movement away from a repressive gendered discourse on sexuality was occurring. In 1941 Foulkes raised the issue awkwardly and the female participants reacted with anxiety and fearful comments. By 1947 participants in all groups shared the consensus that 'fright over sex' should be overcome and the groups strongly supported members' attempts to do so. In the same period valorization of emotional control became central to British national identity; how did the groups reconcile the relaxation of control over sexuality with the ideal of control over emotion?

A Fig For The Morrow – I'll Sing To The End

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I'll sing to the end. So wrote Margery Jennings in a poem to Dorothy MacLeod whilst interned by the Japanese on the island of Sumatra during WW2. Their world was one of malnutrition, malaria, beriberi and forever being moved to yet another camp. A world far removed from the colonial life they had left. Without the constant juxtaposition to males, women were now free to organise their lives, granted under very restrictive boundaries, in their own way.

Music, in one form or another, was a key survival strategy leading to various musical activities, however, with many different nationalities there was always a language barrier. Two remarkable women filled this gap with such enterprise that 70 years on it is still hard to imagine how it was achieved. Norah Chambers who had the original idea of using women's voices in place of musical instruments combined her talent with Margaret Dryburgh to produce over 30 pieces of classical music by writing the scores from memory, then rearranging and harmonising them into four vocal parts representing the four stringed instruments. The result was a unique Vocal Orchestra. As one of the survivors remarked when the first concert was held 'the music was the most wonderful thing in our lives and I don't know what we should have done without it'.

Music had the capacity to take them to a different place and time where for a brief moment they could be free. Nevertheless with disease and death the concerts only lasted for a short time, however the legacy lives on.

The Extra-Ordinariness Of Everyday Life On The Home Front: Women And Crime In Wartime Crewe, Cheshire 1914-18

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Women in Crewe, Cheshire faced a series of increasingly difficult problems whilst attempting to maintain everyday domestic life during the First World War: these ranged from the absence of partners and the concomitant reduction in domestic income, the rationing of certain foodstuffs and the maintenance of children. This paper examines to what extent these problems led to the considerable rise in the percentage of women prosecuted in Crewe Magistrates' Court. During this period women accounted for 18.5% of total defendants (654), compared with an average of 12.4% (6097) throughout the period 1880-1940. Over a third of the offences for which women were prosecuted during 1914-18 were regulatory in nature, ranging from neglect of children to illegal use and hoarding of rationed foodstuffs, suggesting that women who were normally absent from the criminal justice system increasingly turned to illicit measures in order to support their families.

The paper is based on data taken from an ESRC research project carried out by myself (Wolverhampton University), Barry Godfrey (Liverpool University), and Stephen Farrall (Sheffield University) into criminal offending in Crewe 1880-1940. The project resulted in a database of almost 50,000 cases brought before magistrates.

A Study of the Printed Media and Documents of Women in Turkey during the Second World War: Roles, Practices, Discourses and Politics (1989-1945)

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Even though Turkey did not directly enter into conflict during the Second World War, it felt the effects of the War intensely in internal and external politics. Not having joined the war, Turkey positioned itself in an alliance by declaring war against Germany two months before the end of the war. The fact that Turkey was not involved in the war did not prevent the socio-economic problems brought out by the war from occurring. Moreover, martial law was declared in the cities close to the Balkans, where the war had reached; some of the young men were taken into the army after a declaration of partial mobilization; basic necessities such as sugar, bread and olives were rationed; extraordinary taxes were imposed on the peasants and the wealthy. Both the state politics realized during the period of war and the data of the cultural, sociological and economic dynamics in the social sphere demonstrated that Turkey was a country where there were war conditions.

The focus point of this study is to understand how women were affected by war through different practices of their daily life. We will study whether there was such an effect and how it happened through issues related to public sphere such as education, politics and labor; on the other hand, we will try to understand the practices and roles which are produced and reproduced in private sphere such as abuse, violence, domestic life, providing food, marriage and relationships of family members. In this study, the main materials to be used are daily newspaper, periodicals and archival documents of the time. When searching for the answers, I am planning to analyze the materials comparing them through two categories: Periodicals and newspapers that stood closely with the discourse of power such as Cumhuriyet and Ulus; and those which stood closely discourse of the opposition such as Tan. Accordingly, we will try to understand the approach, perception and fiction of the power and opposition discourses related to gender roles, relationships and practices in the conjuncture of an indirect war.

Finally, the original side of this study is to introduce how women in Turkey, which did not actively take part in the Second World War, were affected by war conditions. Thus, we aim to analyze universal and different dimensions of how women are affected by direct or indirect war conditions in daily life practices.

'A little extra': Women and rationing in Glasgow, 1939-54

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This paper will explore the experiences of women in Glasgow during the period of rationing, 1939-54. Black-market activity during this period has received attention from historians including Ina Zweiniger-Bargeilowska and Mark Roodhouse, yet the social aspects of black-market trade remain underdeveloped in the literature and this is especially true at the Scottish level. Drawing on records from the Glasgow Sheriff Court and oral testimony, this paper will examine black-market trade from the consumer perspective, particularly 'under the counter' trade – trade, primarily in foodstuffs, between retailers and consumers which contravened rationing regulations. Attitudes were found to incorporate both support for the rationing system and also ambivalence towards the illegality of under the counter trade. Attitudes towards under the counter trade were found to be particularly influenced by notions of gender and women's role as 'homemakers'. Given that under the counter consumers tended to be women, this form of black-market trade was often seen as an almost natural extension of their role as family providers. Furthermore, by drawing upon long-standing community relationships with local retailers, consumers more readily associated under the counter trade with women engaged in sociable community assistance than with an illegal activity. By considering issues of gender and community we can understand that government attempts to establish a link between illegal, or criminal, behaviour and this form of black-market trade were negated in the public consciousness. This paper will also employ analysis of the only film relating to black-market activity produced by the Ministry of Information, Partners in Crime (Frank Launder, 1942), to assist in the exploration of ideas relating to gender and under the counter trade.

"Responsibility, Duty, Sympathy and Self-Sacrifice": Empire and Elementary School Curricula on the Home-Front, 1914-1918

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From 1870 elementary school attendance had begun to be compulsory for all British children between the ages of five and ten. This mushrooming working-class school population necessitated a new, focused approach from government, educationalists and pressure groups towards mass elementary curricula. A need arose to prepare pupils for their role as future working-class citizens of the Empire, to which the Board of Education responded with prescriptive curricula differentiated by both age and gender. By the outbreak of the Great War, however, the content and pedagogy of these curricula were often contested by both professional and political groups; especially as the perceived needs of Britain and the Empire changed in the face of new imperial and colonial challenges. Patriotic organisations increasingly regarded the schools as a 'front' in the years leading up to and during the Great War through which to promote their own interests and utilised the elementary curricula as a site for their wartime propaganda.

This paper will therefore use a range of primary sources from both the official and extra-Parliamentary progenitors of the British Home-Front elementary curricula to understand what working-class boys and girls were being taught about the War, Britain's position in the World and, by implication, their own wartime identities. The curriculum represents an important case-study through which to examine the intellectual development of ideas of nationhood, citizenship and gender within the development of British identity, especially within the crucible of international conflict.

Birmingham Women Remember: War-Work and the Home Front during the First World War

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In 1981 Birmingham Museums conducted an oral history project in which participants were interviewed about their experiences of the 'Great War'. The collection consists of over 30 interviews including 13 oral testimonies by women. The project broadly reflected the participant's memories of daily life on the Home Front as well as the experiences of Birmingham men and women who served overseas, specifically on the Western Front.

The aim of this paper will be to draw upon a selection of oral testimonies by Birmingham women, and to explore their perspectives on war-work and the Home Front during the first world war.

The range of war-time work available to Birmingham women at this time highlights not only the dominance of munitions and ordnance production in the city, but also the role it played as a centre for military medicine and rehabilitation. The collection represents women who worked as munitions workers, in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), as nurses in Birmingham hospitals, as well as women who volunteered for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and saw service overseas. To a lesser extent the project explored their perspectives on motherhood, poverty, food shortages and rationing.

Oral testimonies are a prominent feature in Birmingham Museum's history galleries: Birmingham, its people and its history, which opened in October 2012. This paper will also discuss some of the approaches to the use of oral testimonies particularly in relation to issues associated with memory, remembering and interpretation within the context of Birmingham's First and Second World War narratives.

"We have to do everything that strong and loving mothers are able to do for the nation!"

Protection of women and their children in wartime Hungary

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Before the outbreak of the Great War, Hungary was among those countries where the institutional framework of social legislation had only been established at a rudimentary level. Consequently, political acts were accompanied by the activity of certain civil organisations. Among these associations, the work of bourgeois female associations needs emphasizing. Naturally, problems immensely deepened in 1914, when the mobilization of the Central Powers' troops started. While the majority of strong and able-bodied men went to the frontlines, girls, mothers and women who were unable to support themselves stayed at home without protection. As a result of this, the activity carried out by the Hungarian Feminist Association and by its sub-organisations became essential.

In the presentation, I will investigate the wartime social activity of the Hungarian Feminist Association with special regard for its work in connection with the protection of mothers and their children. I will address the following questions drawing upon the contemporary Hungarian periodical press: How effective was the social and caritative work of the association? Approximately how many women enjoyed the protection of the Feminists? Were they able to supplement the lack of the state legislation? It is also worth considering how the Association – both in Budapest and in the provinces – was able to finance these initiatives, as the records of the organization-members and from the protocols of the general assemblies of the Feminists indicate. I will elude to different initiatives the feminists launched during the conflict: day-time care for infants and children, division of food and milk, support of pregnant women as well as the insurance for financial support such as maternity leave.

Everyday lives and duties of Polish women in the rural provinces of the eastern Polish land during World War I

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The events of World War I influenced the activities of women who took up gainful employment in greater numbers than in earlier period. Care of the household; on the other hand, postulates associated with wider access to education for women or slogans of women's right to equality paled into insignificance besides the unrest caused by the war. Forms of activity for women during World War I focused on initiatives related to securing food supplies and providing health care for family members and close friends from the local community. In cities and towns, Citizens' Committees were created by local Polish elites cooperating with the elites of other nationalities, mainly Jewish with a view to helping the poor, disabled and children. The management boards of these committees consisted of only men, but important tasks were entrusted to women. Women's personal documents – diaries and letters – containing memories from the period of the Great War immortalised the image of bloody Russian-German battles and the participation of Poles in them, showing that the everyday lives of women during the war were full of anxiety over providing food to their families, the omnipresent fear of the occupier and barbaric behaviour of Russian or German armies towards civilians. As time of war went by, the financial situation of the population worsened significantly. In both their families and immediate vicinity, women experienced the painful effects of their worsening economic situation, including famine which particularly occurred in cities.

The Daily Express and Evacuation 1939-1942

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This paper investigates the portrayal of evacuation in the British press during the Second World War, specifically the Daily Express, in an attempt to understand how these events were depicted to the public on the home front. However, it is not simply an analysis of the extent to which the press covered the evacuation scheme from 1939-1942. The primary focus of this paper's analysis will be how the press coverage of evacuation presents, consolidates and perhaps even necessitates the formulation of alternative images of the family. It will address the ways in which family are presented in the evacuation stories and whether these images develop and change over time. Do these stories compound particular social conventions about the family? What are the expected roles placed on individual members of the family? Do these assumptions shift or remain stable?

In order to ascertain whether the content of the press at this time was part of a wider sphere of wartime communication, this paper will also outline the government's wartime policy and attitude to evacuation. Discussion of how the government sought to get press co-operation in 'selling' the idea of evacuation to the public allows us to establish the level of press independence during wartime. Did the Daily Express and other newspapers criticise the government's conception and execution of the scheme? Or were they primarily supportive? Were these articles the independent opinions of individual newspapers? It will also allow us to evaluate the attitude of government towards family and whether they acknowledged the impact of evacuation on family life.

To conclude, this paper will analyse whether the image of family during the evacuation campaign was shared by the press, government and public or whether a different image of family developed in differing spheres of wartime home front society.

'Tid'apa'? British Women on the Home Front in Malaya and Singapore, 1939-42

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SINGAPORE WOMEN DEFENDED

Women in Singapore worked splendidly right up to the end, and there were few slackers, Lady Samson, wife of Sir George Samson, said yesterday. Commenting upon Lady Brooke-Popham's statement that women in Singapore were too pre-occupied with social activities to engage in war work, Lady Samson said that this impression was not correct. While there was a certain amount of gaiety, most women had worked splendidly. Additionally, any energetic women recently arrived from England could not understand that long years in the tropics would sap anyone's energies. ...

The Argus, March 7, 1942, p.5.

Did British women in Malaya and Singapore suffer from an attitude of *tid'apa'* ('it doesn't matter') as described by Gilbert Mant, an Australian journalist, when it came to war work, both voluntary and paid, and continue to enjoy an indulgent and apathetic colonial lifestyle; or did many (but not all) actively participate on their own home front, and also contribute to the wider imperial war effort? Using the remarks made by Lady Brooke-Popham as a starting point, my paper investigates the extent of the involvement of British women in the Malayan and Singapore war effort, and examines their responses to such apparently derogatory statements. Sources, for example memoirs, personal accounts, contemporary books, and newspaper articles, reveal that women were actively participating in home front activities and sought to correct the widely held view that British/Europeans civilians in Malaya and Singapore had ignored, and done little to prepare for the eventuality of war. I also place their experiences alongside those of other European, Asian and Eurasian women who also contributed to the war effort in this outpost of Empire.

'A Matter of Life and Death: Constructing RAF Combat Masculinity on the Home Front'

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Britain's Second World War fighter pilots are closely associated with the myth of 'The Few', but examinations of these men often ignore the complex gender dynamics from which this heroic ideal was constructed. The developing masculine identity of RAF Fighter Command pilots depended upon an unprecedented interconnectedness with the Home Front. In this paper, I argue that civilian women's physical proximity to aerial combat in the South of England disrupted and challenged in-flux male identity in emerging Second World War air force culture. Unlike other servicemen, many pilots stationed near towns and cities had near-daily encounters with civilian women, who in turn often witnessed dogfights over their homes and developed working relationships with local squadrons. By examining pilots' interactions with their female peers, especially wives, girlfriends, and sisters, I explore changing understandings of communication and negotiation of shared war experience between female Home Front representatives and male combatants. Aerial combat over the South of England was, I argue, very much a shared and therefore ambiguously gendered experience: the paper focuses on letters, diaries, and oral histories from 1940-1941 southeast Greater London and Cambridge, where women experienced 'violence from the air' in the form of bombing and RAF men had regular opportunities to interact with civilians. This differed considerably from the deployed Royal Flying Corps combat experience of the First World War and interwar all-male Royal Air Force communities. This new presence of civilian women – a physical reminder of the Home Front – in fighter pilots' lives raised personal and official responses from the possibility of emotional relief to worries about neglect of duty in combat.

'More Money, More Freedom': British Women Workers on the Home Front, 1914 to 1918

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Despite the long hours, often dangerous conditions, and sacrifice which women's work during the First World War undeniably entailed, for some women looking back on this period in later life, it was recalled as a time of happiness and opportunity. This paper will explore the intersection between personal opportunity and service to others in women's war work in Britain during the First World War. It will consider the anxiety exhibited in contemporary periodicals such as *Girl's Own Paper*, which frequently warned its readers against viewing war work as a means of personal development or career advancement. The attempts of publications such as the *Girl's Own* to interpret the meaning of war service to their female readers as sacrifice and duty alone will be contrasted with a small local study of women in Southampton, and the way in which they experienced their war work as a time of unprecedented adventure, freedom, and economic prosperity and mobility.

The local study will draw upon oral history interviews undertaken in the early 1980s which captured women's accounts of their employment during the First World War, including some who went, almost overnight, from serving as low paid apprentices, dressmakers and domestic servants, to becoming well paid and skilled welders, crane drivers and machine operators. For such women, their work was a means to do something meaningful to help the war effort, but they also found that they could suddenly command higher wages, and change and select new jobs with far greater ease. This paper will draw on the women's recollections of their new-found economic prosperity, the importance of female friendships, new social freedoms and broader employment opportunities, and will explore the often complex relationship between the desire to serve the nation and the unprecedented opportunities the war afforded women workers.

Women's Experiences and Private Life During the Second World War in Turkey: Marriage, Household Economics, Health, Fashion, Entertainment (1939-1945)

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It is known that in the countries, which entered the WW2, general social and economic life and also women's private, public life were seriously affected with that period. Even if Turkey didn't join the hot war, as a country which was under the influence of the war conditions, circumstances were not a far cry from the belligerent countries. Turkey didn't enter the hot war but it was obliged to take place on the side of allied forces towards the end of the war. Although Turkey tried not to join the war for many years, all the inconveniences of the war period were experienced in Turkey just as in fighting countries. Since Turkey was in the threat of war, serious economical and militarist precautions were provided against the war and they also affected the life of people. The women in Turkey had many difficulties like the women of the fighting countries.

This presentation examines the change of the private life and demonstrates how the war affected the women in their identities of female, mother and wife during the Second World War in Turkey. It studies the positioning of the women in the areas of marriage, household economics, child care, education, health, fashion under the categories of housewife, working woman, urban woman and country woman. On the other hand, this work investigates how the war shaped the women's emotional and intellectual world.

'Culture Clashes: Gender, Conflict and Belgian Refugees in Yorkshire'

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Using Yorkshire as a case study, this paper will explore the gender and power dynamics at play in the encounters that took place between Belgian refugees and the local population during the First World War. Initially, evocations of Belgian women as powerless victims of a German oppressor in the British press both mobilized and haunted the popular imagination. However, when the local Belgian refugee committees, which were largely composed of socially elite women experienced in social welfare work, began to meet and engage with Belgians who came from a range of social, cultural and ethnic/ language backgrounds, assumptions that had been made based on these early popular representations of the refugees were nuanced and challenged.

Conflicts arose when Belgians did not conform to committee members' expectations of the appropriate behaviours of 'grateful' refugees in terms of, for example, sexual morality, leisure activities or the consumption of alcohol. Equally, in the large hostels set up to house groups of Belgian refugees, there were interesting debates, recorded in the pages of committee minutes, about the value and status of women's work both within and outside of the home, as it was decided that payment should be given for the Belgian women who did the housework while other women took on paid war work. This also caused conflict - the result of a wartime context in which what had traditionally been defined as service, or as 'non-productive work', where work is linked to production, came to be re-defined as 'work' with social and economic value.

Drawing on sources from archives in both the UK and Belgium, this paper will explore the different ways in which encounters between Yorkshire female committee members and Belgian refugees led to a questioning and, at times, an evolution of attitudes amongst both groups.

Women Artists in the Spanish Pavilion of the International Exhibition in 1937

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The work Spanish artists accomplished in defence of the Republic who were trying to win the Spanish Civil War is quite well-known. Some of them, like Josep Renau or Pablo Picasso, have been recognised thanks to their contributions to the International Exhibition of Paris in 1937. Renau's photomontages or Picasso's Guernica had an important role in the transmission of the war conflict to foreign countries.

Nevertheless, women's role has been studied less. Like men, although to a lesser extent, they took sides in these issues and several of them supported the Republican bloc. Consequently, women artists, such as Juana Francisca Rubio and Pitti Bartolozzi, also participated in the war on the basis of their ideologically convictions. Both of them took an active role in the conflict; the first creating posters and the second children's comics. However, their works have not been studied sufficiently and neither have their contributions to the Spanish Pavilion in Paris 1937.

The aim of this paper is to address Rubio's and Batolozzi's works in wartime, paying attention to their contributions to the Spanish Pavilion. Rubio participated with a drawing and other illustrations for the book called Memories of Spain whereas Bartolozzi contributed a series of engravings under the title of Children Nightmares, which denounced fascism and the destruction of war.

Mending: Life and Loss Art Installation

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Using archival materials from the Worcester Records Office and The Infirmary museum, this series of art works commemorates the children from Worcester city who lost their fathers in the Great War 1914 – 1919; and the women who were left to survive on their own when their loved ones didn't come back from the Front.

Propaganda campaigns during the war provided housewives with advice on how they would be supporting the war effort in the home by being frugal and resourceful. However, as the war drew on, everyday life became more difficult when faced with loss and the emotional turmoil brought on by the conflict.

Mending: life and loss, uses appropriated domestic items from the period that are given a new meaning when selected and re-presented as artworks for this exhibition. These small items found in most homes, such as a 1914 mending kit made in Redditch and a pill box from a first aid kit, act as visual metaphors to demonstrate their inadequacy for the purpose of holding life together or making it better.

Another work presents a list of children from the city who lost their fathers in the conflict. Some are identified only by their mother's name and the number of children in the family, rather than by individual names. No further information is given about them, but the number of children listed provides some comfort and hope for the future;

'And know that it was for you who bear his name
And such as you that all his joy he gave –
His love of quiet fields, his youth, his life,
To win that heritage of peace you have'.

From 'To Tony, (aged 3)' by Marjorie Wilson (in memory of her brother, killed in action in 1918).

'The Welsh girls are good fighters': social relations, female activism and women's experiences of work in munitions factories in Wales during the First World War

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Incidences of social unrest and strike action amongst male workers have come to dominate our historical understanding of labour history in Wales. Men's experiences of the workplace alongside the growth of trade unionism in Wales have become embedded within both popular and historical memory. In part the male worker, combined with the labour movement itself, has become an integral part of Welsh identity. However, as increasing numbers of women became employed in the munitions industry during the First World War, female trade union membership increased. Within the context of union activity especially in south Wales, the purpose of this paper will be to explore the extent of female activism amongst factory workers and ascertain how both the authorities and individuals responded. In addition, examining the level of interaction between workers, supervisors and female police officers demonstrates the importance of class, age and gender in shaping experiences of war work.

Local branches of National Federation of Women Workers primarily in South-West Wales began to organise women workers from both the tinsplate and munitions industry. In an atmosphere of increasing government control and social unrest within many mining communities, the actions of women workers demonstrated an increasing willingness to further

their own claims for equal pay and an improvement in working conditions. This lay in contrast to much of the public discourse and propaganda which maintained that patriotism and supporting the war effort was the sole concern of female labour. Observations of these women and their behaviour also reflected contemporary debates surrounding both the control and welfare of this primarily young female workforce. However, reports from trade union journals alongside the proceedings of local Munitions Tribunals printed in the local press suggest that some women cooperated as a group of workers in attempting to challenge their unequal status in the workplace.

From pacifism to a new world order: the Women's Co-operative Guild and the home front in Britain, 1939-45

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The Women's Co-operative Guild has been largely overlooked by historians of the home front in Britain during World War Two. Monographs on women's participation in voluntary organisations like the WVS, as well as the remaking of class and gender relations, have marginalised this important body. More remarkable is the way the Guild has also been passed over by scholars who have sought to bring the experience of consumers centre stage in their work on rationing and the black market. This general disregard has not been helped by the fact that the best study of the Guild unfortunately has very little to say on the impact of war; according to Scott the conflict served mainly to expose the limitations of the Guild's commitment to a pacifist policy and triggered terminal decline.

This paper seeks to remedy this marginalisation, for despite the undoubted setbacks, the Guild continued to play a central role in civil society. The first half of the paper discusses its practical contribution to the home front. Guild members were keen critics of both evacuation and rationing, arguing for the latter well before statutory measures were introduced by government. Moreover, notwithstanding the organisation's steadfast support for pacifism at the top, members played an active role in Food Committees and Excess Profits Committees on the ground, using their experience of the politics of consumption to help secure justice for the working-class consumer. The second half of the paper considers the Guild's wider vision of post-war reconstruction. Many Guild activists underlined how the creation of a new social and economic order, which they regarded as the only guarantee for national and international food security, depended on expanding the meaning of democracy. The paper argues that this view strengthened between the publication of the Beveridge Report and the end of war.

Gender and Civil Defence during the Second World War in Britain

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Although the Civil Defence services have been largely unstudied, gender is the focus of much of the scholarship that does exist. Most agree that despite initial hostility and scepticism towards women workers in Civil Defence - including the Fire Service, Air Raid Wardens, First Aid and Rescue Parties, Ambulance Drivers, Decontamination Squads, messengers, and parts of the Women's Voluntary Service - acceptance and a blurring of 'gendered responsibilities' followed after women proved themselves capable. However, despite readjustments Lucy Noakes and Susan Grayzel find that women continued to be segregated from men in work and discourse. Certain roles, skills and locations remained off limits to women, and, for example, even after compulsion was brought in women were banned from Fire Guard duty in Liverpool to avoid the risk of them being exposed to the 'moral laxity' of the blackout.

Using self-narrative sources produced during the war, I will explore how and if these divisions were negotiated and overcome. Is it realistic to presume individuals would be able to change their ideas about their co-workers and the roles suitable for them, or quickly forget the initial hostility shown to them? How might these conflicts and the memory of them have affected the way individuals experienced their work in Civil Defence and the war as a whole? Rather than highlight conflict or division in the way that much research has already usefully done, I aim to explore how individuals and groups negotiated these issues. I will use analytical techniques borrowed from linguistics to better understand narrative techniques, positioning, storylines and genre, as well as psychologist Carol Gilligan's Listening Guide. How were differences explained and accepted, or indeed ignored? Did a cohesive group and coherent narrative have to be formed, or was it possible for a multitude of interpretations of identity and experience to coexist? At a time of national myth making, how did women of Civil Defence interact with the 'People's War'?

Wrens in Camera: The Silent Service looks back through the photography of Lee Miller

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The title of this slim volume of images and text published in 1945 ironically highlights in its title the double-bind women on the home front, particularly those in the services, experienced during World War 2. They were simultaneously both a visible presence in the work place and invisible, 'taken for granted' as Vera Laughton Mathews, the Director of the Women's Royal Navy Service, pithily pointed out in her introduction to this publication. This paper will examine how Miller's particular photographic practices brought these hidden women's working lives into focus. Her portraits of anonymous WRENS in action challenge the traditional view on women offering individualised examples of women in action, competently doing a wide range of work in a variety of situations on land and at sea. A complex mixture of glamour and invisibility emerges from her images. Her position as a female war correspondent for *Vogue* – the archetypal woman's magazine that set the agenda of glamour and concealment – introduces a third level of seeing that of the seer, and most importantly that this seer was both a woman and one who had experienced being the seen, the seer and the unseen in a career that placed her both in front of and behind the camera as model, muse and creative photographer at the centre of artistic modernism in Paris.

The choice of portraiture as the overarching genre is crucial in engaging the putative audience as it is the one genre that everyone would understand and have had experience of, either through sitting for their own school portraits or family snapshots. It is thus both a familiar form but one riven with ambiguities that both authenticates and deconstructs individual notions of identity through describing the individual and inscribing them within social and cultural norms of gender, race, status and power. Miller mobilizes the familiar visual grammar and rhetoric of portraiture combined with her modernist, surrealist and art historical visualities and techniques to make visible and individualize the many different hidden experiences women encountered during the War beneath the artificially homogenized uniform world of service women on the Home Front. The instability of a uniform femininity is constantly queried visually through little details such as wisps of hair escaping from the carefully coiffeured heads suggesting that the bounding line of femininity is permeable.

Caring for those left behind: The work of the Huddersfield Prisoner of War Committee, 1940-1946

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During the Second World War some 172,592 British servicemen were taken captive by the Germans, Italians or Japanese, the great majority of whom left behind dependants whether wives, children or parents. Whilst the basic financial needs of these dependants continued to be met by the state through family and dependents' allowances and although the services made some attempt to meet the emotional needs of these families, nevertheless worries remained about the men themselves (especially for those who were in Japanese hands) and more immediate and local support was needed to help families deal with these worries and to support the need for adjustment to long-term absence. In many areas, these practical and emotional needs were met by locally established Prisoner of War Committees; some having their origins in the Great War but the majority specially created after 1939.

The local nature of these committees means that most have left few traces but using a range of primary sources, including those in local archives and newspapers, this paper focuses on the work of the Huddersfield Prisoner of War Committee as a case study through which to examine the formation of the committees, their funding, the scope of their work during the war, who actually benefitted from their actions and their role when the war ended. They represent an important wartime example of community self-help across the country and in both urban and rural environments to aid families left in limbo by the fortunes of war.

Feminist Peace Activism during the Great War: The British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1915 – 1919

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Six days after the Second Battle of Ypres had begun, the International Congress of Women convened and formed the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace (ICWPP). Established in 1915 during the Great War by a group of internationally minded feminists who were committed to securing a lasting peace, it adopted the name Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) four years later. This paper will look at the British section of WILPF to consider how this organised group of women campaigned for both feminism and pacifism throughout the First World War.

Although an important organisation in promoting women's rights at an international level, the League is often omitted from the wider historiography of "first wave" feminism. Furthermore, traditional work on the British suffrage movement focuses on leaders like Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett who advocated loyalty to the government's war effort and suspended suffrage activity. However, a significant number of women opposed the war, including leading suffragists such as Catherine Marshall (Secretary of the British Section of WILPF) and Emmeline Pethwick Lawrence (a prominent member of the organisation). During a period of heightened nationalism and patriotism, these women courageously campaigned for a permanent peace based on the principles of justice and equality.

This paper will look at the British WILPF on the Home Front during the First World War to examine the extent to which these women combined the ideals of both feminism and pacifism. This paper aims to extend the current historiography of the British women's movement, to include feminist activism during the Great War. In particular, the paper will investigate the notion that women felt they had a special duty to secure peace as "mothers of the race" and the development of a feminist-pacifist consciousness within the British women's movement. As 2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, this timely paper will focus on the League to demonstrate that not all women were supportive of the war effort.

Goodbye Trabzon Hello Istanbul: Anatolia from the Diary of a Young Girl

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Literature on the First World War in the Middle East is in the midst of a renaissance as we approach the war's centenary. A myriad of new questions are thus emerging beyond the military and political aspects of the war. Famously described as a "sideshow of a sideshow" by T.E. Lawrence, scholars are only recently demonstrating the importance of the First World War across the Middle East.

And indeed, the lives of women during the war must also be accounted for. For this conference, I would like to analyze a memoir entitled *Hoşça Kal Trabzon Merhaba İstanbul: Bir Kız Çocuğunun Günlüğünden Birinci Dünya Savaşı'nda Anadolu* (Goodbye Trabzon Hello Istanbul: Anatolia from the Diary of a Young Girl during the First World War). This source is unique in that we are left with very few narrative accounts of World War I from Ottomans. This book tells the story of a female child named Medihe as she and her family migrated from Trabzon, a city in Northeastern Anatolia, to Istanbul. Violent migration was a consistent feature of the late Ottoman Empire; Medihe's mother's family migrated to Trabzon from what is currently Georgia in 1878, after the disastrous 1877-8 war with Russia.

I will demonstrate that the violent conditions of the war also uprooted Ottoman families that were not directly involved in fighting; violence affected into virtually all sectors of the Ottoman population. The second part of *Hoşça Kal Trabzon Merhaba İstanbul* treats Medihe's new life in Istanbul, which she contrasts starkly with her life in Trabzon. We see how Medihe's life as an internal war refugee drastically altered her life. In a society where the Ottoman Empire was still an Empire, Medihe's story illustrates how Ottoman identities were in flux and one could still be an "outsider" without moving across political borders.

The fashioning of the bereavement narratives of the widows of parliamentary military officers during the British Civil Wars

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In a landmark historical moment on 24 October 1642, the Long Parliament legislated that widows of its slain servicemen would be entitled to apply for a state pension to be administered on a county basis by justices of the peace. This entitlement was lost after the Restoration and was not reinstated for over two centuries. Considerable work has been done on the petitioning narratives of the widows of parliament's rank and file soldiers by scholars such as Geoff Hudson and David Appleby, but this has yet to be compared with how the parliamentary regimes of the 1640s and 1650s treated the widows of their military officers. This paper will examine how far the bereavement narratives of officers' widows differed, including how the language within them expressed aspects of grief, loss, entitlement and neediness. It will explore how these women remembered the conflict, and how parliamentary attitudes to provision for war widows may have differed from those of their royalist adversaries. The paper will draw on parliamentary records, family collections and the state papers in the National Archives. It will reflect on how far this evidence suggests that women were briefly considered part of the political nation during the interregnum, and the reasons why this might have been the case.

Two English Scripts of Ravishment: Division between Royalist and Parliamentary Utilization of Rape

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Whether an attorney, historian or anthropologist, sexual violence against women remains a crime hidden beneath layers of cultural assumptions, societal frameworks and interpretations of individuals. However, while proving the crime might be a minefield, accounts of sexual violence against women are a goldmine for a scholar hoping to discover hidden gems of cultural significance. Refined through filters of wartime, geographic region, political affiliation and gender, the finished product of a sexual script is an incredible tool to study the various frameworks which help a particular society to function. Civil wars, too, are interesting subjects for examining culturally significant activity. Unlike most types of military conflict, civil wars make each and every citizen's home a Home Front of sorts, obscuring the typical clear cut divisions of conflict.

By applying Michael Gagnon and William Simon's idea of sexual scripts to English Civil War depictions of sexual violence against women, this paper identifies the various sexual scripts stemming from the two sides of the war, offering new perspective on cultural aspects of the conflict's division itself. Thus in the two emerging camps of the English Civil Wars, we can see two groups of sexual scripts developing as well. Royalist sexual scripts relied heavily on coded language, specific instances of rape, and the classical definition of the crime as theft. Parliamentary scripts, meanwhile, focused on the general poor character of Royalists as rapists, the infectious and poor morality of the foreign Catholic soldiers fighting for the king and utilized the more modern definition of rape as forced copulation. In this essay, these differences and more are proved and explored, examining the ramifications of these differences in the more broad cultural distinctions developing between the two groups.

'Victims or survivors: army wives in Ireland during the Crimean War, 1854-6'

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The study of women and war is something which has developed steadily in recent decades, and indeed it might be argued that today it stands as a cornerstone of social military history. Although Myna Trustram argued in 1984 that a great deal was by then known about the philanthropic endeavours of women during the Crimean War, through their activities in military hospitals as nurses, she also argued that far less was known about the efforts of the soldiers' wives and children away from the front lines.

While Trustram made a substantial contribution to the broader knowledge of women during and indeed after the war with Russia, especially soldiers' wives and children in Britain, and this has since been further developed and expanded by several other historians, a common argument, inferred by the former, but directly espoused by Patricia Lin and Catriona Kennedy, has developed – that the study of women in war, specifically military wives, is a fertile and under-researched area of history.

Although a number of dedicated studies of Irish philanthropy during the nineteenth century have been produced by scholars like Margaret Preston, Maria Luddy and Jacinta Prunty, there persists an absence of a dedicated study of Ireland's military womenfolk in that century comparable to the several such studies already in existence in Britain. Thus, by taking the Crimean War as a case-study, it is the aim of this paper to ascertain what happened to the army wives in Ireland during the that conflict, how this related to the situation in the broader United Kingdom at the time, and what it tells us about such women in Ireland in the nineteenth-century. It will ascertain to what extent those women were, due to the circumstances in which they were placed between 1854 and 1856, victims or survivors of that war.

"Sexual Encounters of Women at the Home Front in Britain and Germany in the Second World War 1939-45"

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The paper explores the underbelly of 'imagined national communities' during WWII, which became the site of sexual transgressions ranging from coerced sex to serious love relationships between native women and 'aliens' irrespective of ideology, propaganda, prejudice and faith.

It juxtaposes state perception of wartime sexual deviance with the actual experience of ordinary men and women, placed in extraordinary circumstances of war, to examine how high politics and propaganda were received, interpreted, appropriated or subverted by the 'many'. It is a comparative study of Germany and Britain as nations and empires at war that were compelled to engage often 'racially inferior' aliens for various wartime operations and of their endless wrangling with this embarrassing theme, which resulted in a combination of welfare measures with punitive justice for the violators.

The paper is based on records of the judiciary, Gestapo, health ministry, war office, colonial office, welfare organisations and the press dealing with sexual and racial deviance. Through the sexual encounters of native white women, specifically the 'soldiers' wives' with the POWs in Germany, and 'good time girls' with Black GIs and Italian and German POWs in case of Britain, I open the universe of wartime sexual-racial anxieties of nation-empires that found sexual-racial deviance of their female lot deeply detrimental to soldier's morale and the nation's fighting spirit, while catering to the front soldiers' sexual needs in the best possible manner. The paper in other words explores wartime histories of sexuality, gender and race relations, citizenship and patriotism, morality and propriety, all of which were inextricable intertwined in a world view where race and sex became significant markers of nationhood.

"There was only temporary relief from tiredness" – Women's embodied memories of work during the 2nd Word War in Finland

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The grand narrative of women's work at the home front during the Second World War in Finland focuses on the strength and the guts of hard-working women. In the written reminiscences women often support this grand narrative telling how no one complained no matter how difficult the circumstances were. However, memories collected and held in Finnish archives also include narratives of tiredness, pain and dirt connected to work during the war.

This paper focuses on the work of shop assistants, for whom work changed considerably when the war broke out in Finland in 1939. It analyses the ways in which women narrate their tiredness, and reflect their coping and strength. Hard work was not only connected to dirt and pain but also to miscarriages. On the other hand, hard work was done with guts. Life narratives are thus often stories of survival, in harmony with the grand narrative of the Second World War in Finland.

The nature of an oral history material is reflective: for the narrator it gives a chance to reflect and tell a narrative of the past for the contemporary audience. For a researcher, oral history material shows how meanings and values are connected to the time, place and social environment. The paper draws upon my research using written memories to study women's narratives of wage work on the Home Front during the Second World War and years when Finland was rebuilt.

Votes, Wages and Milk: the East London Federation of Suffragettes on the Home Front, 1914-1916

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In many popular accounts of the outbreak of WWI in Britain, casual mention is made of the fact that the suffragettes suspended their militant campaign for the vote, exchanging it for an intensely nationalist, pro-war agenda. The WSPU leaders Christabel and Emmeline Pankhurst were and are lauded for their contribution to the 'war effort'. Sylvia Pankhurst and her East London Federation of Suffragettes, where they are mentioned at all, are simply said to have opposed the war.

But the East London Federation deserve much more than a footnote in First World War histories. It is clear from the records of the women and men involved with the Federation, and the testimony in their newspaper *The Woman's Dreadnought*, that the Federation's response to the war was more complex than simple opposition.

They adopted flexible, practical strategies to use the war to continue and extend their campaign for the vote. They also launched a raft of progressive initiatives aiming to alleviate the intense suffering wrought by the war in London's East End, from milk distribution centres to a health clinic, an employment bureau, a toy factory and several 'cost price' restaurants.

Far from standing aloof in opposition, the East London Federation of Suffragettes made a substantial, effective and principled contribution to the war effort, which provides a fascinating study of working women organising for survival in wartime.

'The professional or the patriot? Women, agency and the professions in Wales during the First World War'

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This paper will explore professional women's working lives on the Home Front in Wales during the First World War. In particular, I will examine the way in which women negotiated the competing, yet not necessarily incompatible, discourses of professionalism and patriotism surrounding their wartime employment. Contemporaries largely situated women's wartime work within a framework of substitution. Subsequent historical studies of the Great War have often mirrored this, primarily focusing on those who entered occupations specifically geared towards the war effort; the munition worker or Land Army girl a familiar motif of women's wartime work. Such a focus on temporary employment has profound implications for the study of women in the professions who were often already employed in paid work before the outbreak of the conflict and, for whom, wartime work was largely a continuation of the role for which they had already professionally trained. This paper will demonstrate how these women found multiple ways to enact their agency by using, subverting and transcending both notions of professionalism and patriotism. In many ways, the effects of assuming a professional identity were ambiguous; working for the war effort and not economic independence could legitimise women's displacement after the war. By specifically analysing Welsh and local levels of subjectivity, I will argue that women in the professions found greater opportunities to enact their agency at a parochial level. As professional women's wartime work became part of a holistic narrative concerning both Wales's and individual localities' contribution to the conflict, women could capitalise on such sentiments of patriotism or civic pride to provide themselves with a platform from which they could showcase their professional abilities. Women could 'serve' in a professional capacity, often reconfiguring their professional ambitions as patriotism, yet using the favourable climate of wartime to implement new structures and practices which would transcend the conflict.

The Boy's Historian: Mobilizing from the Colonial Home Front to Modelling Empire-Builders

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This paper offers a re-imagining of nineteenth century war correspondent and author G.A. Henty known as 'the boy's historian'. Henty witnessed numerous and diverse colonial Home-Fronts accompanying expeditions to Abyssinia and Ashanti, reporting on conflicts including the Paris Commune, revolution in Spain and the Turco-Serbian War, which influenced his writing, including the manifold books for boys for which he is best remembered today. This paper explores representations of the experiences of colonised women and children in his short stories for adults including 'A Passing Face' (1889), published in a collection edited by Henty and fellow war correspondents Archibald Forbes and Charles Williams.

Considered to be based on a real incident which occurred in Napier's Abyssinian expedition in 1868, it tells the story of a woman who bravely surrenders to be with her captured loved ones. These images, markedly absent from his stories for the Empire's boys, are contextualised in this paper within popular images and ideas found in periodicals for both boys and girls such as the Boys and Girls Own Papers. Analysis of texts for adults such as *A March to Magdala* (1868) which was based on his diaries from the Abyssinian Campaign, considers how Henty used war literature to incite the public at home to pressure the government for military reform and improved conditions for soldiers and animals. Also discussed are the certain tensions created around children's texts between the author, his publishers (Blackie and Sons) and wider publishing practice. These are traced in epitextual material, such as interviews with the author and private letters, and paratextual material most notably the prefaces to his books for boys. Tensions involve issues of implied authorship and marketing strategies (suggesting that girls were resistant to attempts to engender reading), and censoring, which illuminates the ideological shaping of imperial literature for both girls and boys.

Lithuanian Women during World War I: Activities and Aspirations

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This presentation will analyze the organized and non-organized activity of Lithuanian women. It will reveal its peculiarities, features in implementing organizational or individual aims, based on the press and the archive material. World War I was the beginning of a new way of life for most men and women of Lithuania and other countries. Women had to represent their families in the community and take responsibility for the protection of the home, functions previously carried out by men. Besides household and community duties, women got involved in the public life. After Lithuania was occupied by Germany, in the autumn of 1915, all organizations were banned, therefore women worked on their own initiative. They fed captives, organized the nursing of wounded soldiers, sewed clothes and raised funds for those who suffered from war, for the lame, the injured, the homeless all over the country and opened a dining canteen for Lithuanians. During the war, women established and ran organizations: To support our countrymen from Prussia Lithuania who suffered from war as well as to support those who suffered from war. Lithuanian women worked actively not only in the occupied Lithuania, but also in parts of Russia: Voronezh, Moscow and Saint Petersburg. When the war started, some women transferred their organizations, parties, schools and activities to Russia. The presentation will analyse women's activities in occupied Lithuania which were devoted to the survival of the nation during the war time and the restoration of the state.

Mrs C S Peel: A Woman at Work 1914-1918

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In addition to munition factories, streetcars and police force, women also worked in managerial and influence positions, unpaid and paid during WW1. Mrs C. S. Peel (1868-1934), a key bibliographic reference in many WW1 historical reviews and historical fictions, provides evidence to the variety of working woman roles before, during and after WW1. Her autobiographies indicate the success she achieved, the value she placed on being paid, and the male antagonism she faced in the office and on the road. Her books on domestic economy were recognized as smart women's guides to running a home with beauty and economy. Her social reviews capture the details and challenges of individual daily finance faced in the home. Her 1929 social history "How We Lived Then: 1914-1918" remains a key source book for the details of home front life during WW1. Upon her death in 1934, she was described as 'An Observer of Social Changes': '...her industry was astonishing ...her work...always bore the impress of her own freshness and vitality'. Yet in most cases, she remains a bibliographic footnote in the literature and writing during the early 20thC.

In this presentation we will review the many roles she played in WW1, her view of herself, and if indeed she was 'exceptional' or representative of women both then and now who continue to occupy the rank and file of many jobs essential to not only home economy, but family and political life. We will focus on the clear, self-effacing voice that she brings to her fiction, social histories and her domestic writings: a voice that rings as clear today in many issues as it did then with "common sense, sound information, humour, and generosity" (Obituary quotation: *The Times*, August 8, 1934).

'Chrystal Macmillan and the enemy women on the Home Front'

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The concept of the 'Home Front' produced a very real conflicted situation for British-born women married to German or Austrian men. Throughout World War One, few women suffered harsher or more distressful conditions than British-born women living in Britain but married to men from enemy countries. While their husbands were interned in camps, mainly on the Isle of Man, the women had to continue living in the community under the label of 'enemy aliens'.

For four years, these women experienced the particular distress of being excluded from employment, evicted from their homes, verbally abused by neighbours, made subject to police regulations restricting their movements and requiring them to register and call regularly at their local police station.

Unlike German women married to British men who were considered British, British women married to Germans were considered German and made subject to these new regulations. Many became destitute while others were encouraged to accept 'repatriation' to Germany.

Their plight was acknowledged by the suffragist Chrystal Macmillan, one of the organisers of the Relief Office established by International Women's Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) in London. Arguing that their situation was symptomatic of all women's lack of rights to full citizenship, Chrystal Macmillan began a long running campaign to change National, Imperial and International law to give women the same rights as men to keep or change their nationality.

Using such case material, the conflictual elements of the concept becomes a useful tool of feminist analysis in the historical accounts.

"I Must Say, I Think It Is Extraordinarily Vulgar, To Be Wearing Bows Amidst a Sea of Black": Debates about Fashion and Patriotism During the U.S. Civil War

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During America's Civil War, the influential editor Sarah Josepha Hale famously did not allow any direct discussion of the conflict in the pages of her popular women's magazine, Godey's Lady's Book. During the four years of the war, Hale kept the focus of her periodical squarely on the "feminine" issues of family and fashion, conscientiously refraining from any overt reflections on the bloody civil war then tearing the country apart. While the majority of other publications (including those targeted towards a female readership) printed considerable material about the impact which the war was having on women on the home front, Godey's, the country's leading fashion periodical, seemed to remain conspicuously silent on the subject.

This silence was not, I argue, as absolute as scholars have long believed. Although refraining from overt commentary on the war, Godey's nonetheless dedicated considerable space in its pages to thinking about the appropriate way for women to dress during a time of national crisis. This paper considers the ways in which Godey's, and other influential fashion periodicals of the Civil War United States such as Petersen's Magazine, entered into debates about the proper roles of fashion on the home front during the conflict. I contend that these periodicals painted a complex picture of how middle-class women ought to dress during the conflict, at once praising women for somberly wearing black to honor their fallen loved ones, and chastising them for failing to live up to high ideals of female beauty to inspire soldiers to fight. These periodicals thus created a fraught and challenging fashion landscape for middle-class women to navigate during the 1860s, in which they were instructed to both beautify themselves to boost soldier morale, yet also to refrain from being excessively "showy" during a time of national deprivation and suffering.

Home Front Diaries: Over Representations of the Chattering Classes?

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The use of diaries, memoirs and personal journals as primary sources has grown exponentially over the last few years, not least with the re-emergence of Mass Observation as a popular and possibly dominant source of personal memories of particularly the Home Front in the Second World War. However these sources have also become items of controversy and debate over the narrow social group they represent. For those beyond the chattering classes, long hours of war work,

coupled with domestic responsibilities in increasingly difficult circumstances as the privations of war increased, were not conducive to diary and journal keeping. This paper will look at these sources and consider them in the light of their limitations and the sometimes condescending and patronising attitudes shown towards the few sources where the working classes had a voice.

Fictional Geographies of Safety and Cleanliness in *House-Bound* by Winifred Peck, (1942)

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In 1939, the writer Storm Jameson contributed a piece to the magazine, *Woman's Journal*, in which she maintains that 'the most honourable war work' any woman on the home front could undertake, consists in keeping her home as 'a small cell of warmth and peace', immutable and inviolate against the disruption of war. The figure of the heroic housewife at the heart of the martial home was thus promoted in official propaganda and in magazine editorials. In fiction, that figure is challenged, rendered as a woman with an interior life as significant as her public role. In her novel *House-Bound*, Winifred Peck's conflicted protagonist is Rose Fairlaw, whose domestic space is a well-ordered, middle-class, familial home in Edinburgh. As the architecture (actual and metaphorical) and management of that space are tested to destruction by the dangers and privations of war, Rose questions the fettering chains of habit that bind her, physically and psychologically.

In this paper, I present Peck's novel in the context of *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concept of Pollution and Taboo*, the seminal work of anthropologist, Mary Douglas whose idea is that rituals around dirt and cleanliness create boundaries within which people can feel safe and in control – the antidote to chaos. I argue that the dangerous conditions of wartime represented in Peck's narrative are metaphorically figured by dirt on the body (a threat to individual integrity) and in the home (endangering the domestic sphere). The charged rituals of cleaning involving the breaking of old, established boundaries reveal their capacity to control, even transcend generalised anxiety; moreover, cleansing the mind of its old habits of thought enable Rose Fairlaw to endure her personal suffering and to contemplate a world of peace. She survives to reconstitute both her sense of self and her place in the lives of others.

Protecting the Home on the Home Front – The Figure of the Prostitute during the Great War

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This paper examines the figure of the prostitute during the First World War and how the attitudes towards prostitution transformed during the war on the Home Front. The period before the First World War in Great Britain saw few remarkable campaigns aiming to curb, and hide, prostitution from the streets of London in particular. Even so, the figure of the prostitute at the start of the 20th century was often seen through the optic of victimhood, as an object of pity and philanthropic rescue missions. The white slavery rhetoric that had captured the imagination of middle class audiences since W.T. Stead's *Maiden Tribute to Modern Babylon* in 1885 had played a major part in this new social construction of the prostitute, and worked as a catalyst for new European wide legislation. In 1904 and 1910 European countries and voluntary organisations had come together to enact accords to protect young women from procurement and involuntary prostitution and abolition of (in)voluntary prostitution was on the agendas across Europe.

The efforts of the voluntary organisations and the once ever so poignant anti-prostitution rhetoric were, however, put on hold during the First World War and governments sanctioned and facilitated prostitution in military bases both near and far. This paper evaluates how the discourse on prostitution on the Home Front and the figure of the prostitute changed during the War, and the influence of the attitudes voiced on the Home Front in shaping post-war legislation. The paper argues that the threat war-time prostitution was perceived to impose to nation the state and family unit ultimately lead to the vilification of particularly foreign prostitutes and paved way for increasingly xenophobic immigration and anti-prostitution policies.

The experience of white South African women during the Second World War

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Though removed from fields of battle, during the Second World War South Africa became a second home front for more than six million Allied soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians who spent time there during the war. It was a transport hub, a base for military training and an industrial centre manufacturing war materials. The impact of the war on the development of South African industry, labour relations and political activism has been well-documented, as has the activities of Afrikaner nationalists opposed to South African involvement in the war such as the Ossewa Brandwag. This paper will look at another aspect of the war in South Africa, the experience of (mostly white, mostly English-speaking) South African women who volunteered for the war effort through the South African Woman Auxiliary Service (SAWAS) and those who married Allied servicemen. A woman, in the form of Perla Gibson, the 'lady in white', symbolized South Africa's welcome to Allied servicemen as she sang patriotic British songs to every troop ship that arrived in Durban. For many, volunteering for SAWAS was a way to demonstrate imperial or British patriotism. Yet the limits of such patriotism are also evident in the letters of South African women, married to British men, writing from the United Kingdom desperately seeking help in returning home from a country they complained was not only cold and damp, but overcrowded and inhospitable. Drawing on letters and memoirs, this paper seeks to shed light on the complex intersections between the racial, national and gender identities of white South African women during the war.

Home and Away: Gender and Politics in First World War Tunbridge Wells

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In common with many other British towns and cities, in the years leading up to the First World War the south-eastern spa town of Tunbridge Wells had a vigorous women's suffrage movement comprising both militant and non-militant (NUWSS) activists. In addition, local women, while not yet represented on the local council, were responsible for the instigation of important schemes for town improvement, particularly in the field of social reform.

This paper addressed the question: what happened to this vigorous, feminist social movement as a result of the outbreak of war in 1914? The standard narrative of the impact of war upon women's suffrage emphasises the suspension of suffragette militancy and the immersion of British women into various kinds of war work. This paper argues that by looking at developments from a local perspective, we can detect a more diverse set of reactions to war from politically involved women. These included several novel forms of social and philanthropic action, as well as a continuing commitment to advancing women's claim to citizenship.

The paper will particularly explore women's political and social activism in Tunbridge Wells, which was focused not only on the 'Home Front' and domestic politics, but also on the politics of war and peace, and of nations and states.

Waging War on the Home Front? Marital Physical Conflicts in Early Modern London

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Currently, historians focusing on marital abuse in England prior to the mid-eighteenth century point to the need for this abuse to be "life-threatening" in order for English legal and lay attitudes to consider it marital cruelty. Whilst Joanne Bailey and I have argued elsewhere that English courts and deponents considered more marital behaviors than physical violence as cruelty prior to the eighteenth century, in this paper I reconsider the claims of these historians in regard to the physical abuse itself in late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century London.

Specifically, I examine the kinds of physical conflicts that occurred, the body parts that were damaged, the weapons that spouses used, and the injuries that resulted on the Home Front in three representative cases. Focusing on these specific aspects of marital physical conflicts in these cases allows us to complicate the prevailing views that this behavior had to be "life-threatening" to be considered cruelty and thereby to question the convention that legal and social toleration for marital physical conflicts on the Home Front declined after the mid-eighteenth century.

Forgotten Agents in a Forgotten Home Front: German Women under French Occupation in Post-Nazi Germany, 1945-1949

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By the spring of 1945, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union and France commenced the difficult task of restoring order to a continent that had witnessed unprecedented death and destruction at the hands of the Nazis. This task proved to be especially difficult in post-Nazi Germany, where aerial bombings, mass rape and endemic hunger ravaged the German Home Front and created inherently gendered experiences of defeat and occupation for a civilian population in which women largely outnumbered men. As the occupation took shape, the Soviet, British and American Military Governments granted German women in their Zones a relative degree of social and political agency by sanctioning women's activities and organizations. The French Zone, on the other hand, one that has come to be known as the 'forgotten Zone' in postwar historiography, did not follow suit. The lack of French occupation policy toward German women disempowered them in the public sphere, where the absence of sanctioned women's agencies stripped women of their agency altogether. By charting the interaction between German women and French occupation policy - or often lack thereof - this paper exposes the ways in which women under French occupation were socially and politically disempowered. In other words, it excavates the lost narrative of a forgotten Home Front between 1945 and 1949.

'An Ambassador's Daughter in War and Revolution: Russia, 1914-1918'

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Meriel Buchanan, daughter of Britain's ambassador to Russia during the First World War, volunteered as an auxiliary nurse in Petrograd on the day Britain declared war on Germany, thus becoming allied to the Russian autocracy. Meriel went on to work in the hospital established by the British 'colony' in Russia's capital city. She recorded that these mostly middle-class women threw themselves into voluntary war work, just like their counterparts back home: they participated in knitting and sewing bees in the British embassy; collected footwear and clothing and ran soup kitchens for the increasing numbers of refugees. Meriel herself was not present at the initial demonstrations which led to the downfall of the Romanov dynasty, but she arrived back in the capital before the first Provisional Government was established. She was a witness to the growing radicalisation of the crowds, to her father's efforts to keep Russia in the War, and to Bolshevik suspicions that he was trying to undermine the revolution by conspiring with both key politicians within the Provisional Government and with the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces who attempted a military coup in August. Meriel wrote a number of books on her time in Russia, partly to vindicate her father against not only Bolshevik allegations but suspicions among certain British circles that he had been incompetent. These works provide us with eye-witness accounts of the impact of war and revolution on Russia, and in particular of the voluntary work done by Russian upper-class women as well as the British women in support of the war effort and their reactions to the revolutionary process which was to take Russia out of the War in April 1918 at a point when the Western Front was far from won by the Allies.

"Your courage is beyond belief": expected behaviour of Roman women during civil conflict

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The Stoic opposition was made up of a collection of families who, generation after generation, agitated against the rule of an emperor. They took as their hero Cato the Younger who fought for the Republic and forfeited his life at its end. Many women in this group took an active part in the struggles of their male family members: joining them in exile, publishing their writings at great personal risk and even sharing their death sentences. Their involvement is all the more striking due to the exclusion of women from political affairs. They became examples, particularly in the Letters of Pliny the Younger written under emperor Trajan, of exceptional female behaviour. However it was not courage in adversity for which these women were praised, but spousal devotion.

Can similar expectations of women be found in the earlier correspondence of Cicero, Pliny's literary model? The 931 Ciceronian letters, dated from 68-44 BCE, chronicle the beginning of the civil conflicts that led to the fall of the Republic.

They are one of the few writings to survive on this period, along with the Memorable Deeds and Sayings of Valerius Maximus and the Life of Augustus by Nicolaus of Damascus. What comments are made in this source about courage, a trait that Romans tended to associate with men? To what degree are women portrayed as unsung heroes of the conflicts, both in managing their families at home and supporting their male relations on the front lines? According to tombstone epitaphs, women were commemorated throughout Roman history for their chastity, modesty and thrift. Were women supposed to be brave during times of war? Almost certainly.

'And they say women could do our work!': The impact of medical dilution on the gendering of the British Home Front in the First World War

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In 1915 the 3rd London General Military Hospital introduced female orderlies to its staff. Dubbed 'orderlettes' in the hospital's monthly journal, these women were only a few among the many women who took on a variety of medical roles, including doctors, anaesthetists and radiographers, in Britain during the First World War to free up manpower for military service. These new roles have generally been cited as examples of the opportunities that war offered women to pursue roles previously denied to them or seriously limited by gender convention. As the mocking names given to and satirical treatment of these women in publications such as the 3rd London General Gazette indicate, however, this 'dilution' of home medical services was not without controversy at the time, with questions being asked about the capability of women in filling medical roles previously taken by men.

This paper will examine the debates around medical dilution which took place in Britain during the First World War. By examining the ways in which both women who took on medical roles and the men who they were replacing were characterised in both the popular and medical press, it will explore the changing status different forms of medical care in British society throughout the course of the war. It will examine how the distinctions made between medical and civilian care in these debates helped to shape understandings of care-giving as a gendered activity. Finally, it will discuss how such debates reflected the changing nature of British home front hospitals, both military and civil, as gendered spaces during the First World War.

Conflict on the Australian Home Front: The Women's Peace Army and Women's Loyal Service Bureau

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Australia, which pledged to support the British Empire to the 'last man and last shilling', was geographically distanced from the Front during the 'all-male preserve' (de Vries 2013) of the Great War. Australia's WWI histories, inspired by C E W Bean's diaries, like other war histories, immortalise soldiers' courageous deeds, creating 'zombie myths' about 'national identity wrapped in the imagery of war' (Stockings 2010) and elevating 'men over women in civic prestige' (Crotty 2009). Recently, this marginalising of women's war activities has been redressed in works such as Susannah de Vries's 2013 account of eight Australian women's courageous contributions on the Front Lines and Kate Adie's 2013 documentation of the wide ranging pursuits of English women on the Home Front. Patsy Adam Smith's earlier tribute (1984) to the 'brave, modest, forgotten women' of Australia recounted stories of women in Home Front organisations such as the Red Cross, lauding those who patriotically supported the war effort, and criticising the unpatriotic stance of pacifists, such as the White Feather brigade who 'went to war in their own way'. This paper revisits the concept of patriotic/unpatriotic women by examining two Australian WWI women's organisations with opposing war positions. The Women's Peace Army, established in 1915 in Melbourne by Vida Goldstein, Adela Pankhurst and Cecilia Johns was a socialist-inspired organisation that sought abolition of conscription and end to war. The Women's Loyal Service Bureau, established in 1917 in Sydney by Millicent Preston Stanley, Mary Booth and Mrs Macarthur Onslow was a conservative organisation that sought to replace 1917 striking unionists with women workers to secure supplies to Australian troops in the trenches. Using primary and secondary sources this paper examines the conflicting ideologies of these two women's organisations. It argues that despite their differences there are surprising similarities in their patriotic and feminist ideals.

"An undoubted success": Women, Work and the BBC in the Second World War

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At the outbreak of war in 1939, the BBC was seventeen years old. During the preceding two decades it had grown exponentially both in size and capacity, with almost everyone in the UK having access to wireless. The Corporation had always taken a progressive stance towards female employment; women worked at all levels, bar the very top, and had good conditions of service. But with war declared, and large numbers of male staff called up, the BBC was compelled to adopt new and different ways of working. This paper considers how this impacted on the women it employed. As well as improved promotion and redeployment opportunities for existing female staff, the BBC introduced a range of initiatives. For example, with the engineering division seriously depleted, the Corporation had no option but to employ substantial numbers of women in an area of work previously performed only by men. At first viewed as highly problematic, by 1943 the recruitment of hundreds of women to this position was hailed as an 'undoubted success'. Similarly, in 1942, the severe shortage of experienced shorthand-typists led the BBC to establish its own Secretarial Training School and the following year, a crèche was instituted to provide twenty-four-hour child-care for staff employed by the Monitoring Service. The war also forced a change of attitude towards the use of female announcers. Hitherto shunned by the BBC, the war-years witnessed a flourishing of women presenters, especially on Forces Radio and a further barrier was broken with the employment of Audrey Russell as a woman war correspondent. Rather than focus on the BBC's broadcasts for women, of which there were many, this paper is concerned with the women who worked for the Corporation during the Second World War and how this changed both their lives and the life of the BBC.

American Home Front Away from Home: Judith Merrill's Broadcast Journalism in Toronto During the Vietnam War, 1968-1975

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Researchers are only beginning to consider the presence and influence of American female antiwar activists in Canada in the Vietnam era: their broader political reasons for coming, and their contributions to the larger world of Canadian social, political, and cultural movements. As a prominent, middle-aged American science-fiction author living in the experimental communities of youthful American anti-war, draft-resisting exiles, military deserters, and expatriates, Judith Merrill (1923-1997), arrived in 1968 as a self-styled "intellectual refugee." This paper discusses Merrill's intense commitment as an activist and promoter of speculative thinking in her decision to move to Canada and her shift into the production of public radio documentaries as a new focal point for her collaboration, dialogue, and speculation about the future of the planet. It explores as a formative influence on Merrill's entry into broadcast journalism her extraordinary but little-known interviews in Japan in the early 1970s, both with leaders of Japan's grassroots antiwar movement and support for U.S. military deserters (the "Beheiren"), as well as with the late Kazuko Tsurumi, the prominent scholar of the Japanese student movements of the late 1960s who has recently been recognised as one of post-WW II Japan's leading female intellectuals.

Our paper draws on Merrill's taped interviews and finished broadcasts, annotated radio scripts, and correspondence concerning her Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio documentary work, creative experience at the CBC studios, and collaborations with Kazuko Tsurumi to highlight our novel examination of the remarkable CBC radio series that Merrill developed and hosted in the early 70s on Japan.

"Even the world of sport suffered a feminine invasion": Women's sport in Second World War Britain

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The expanding opportunities for women during periods of total war, opened up by the mass exodus of men into the armed forces, have been well documented by historians. Yet much of this research has focused on the working lives of these women, with very little written about the changing patterns of female leisure during times of conflict. This has gone alongside a more general neglect of female participation in sport by both women's and sports historians. However, if war tended to break down gender barriers as historians have suggested, then it is surely likely that it also allowed women to penetrate other male-dominated arenas, such as sport.

This paper will use the case study of British women during the Second World War to demonstrate how women's sporting lives could be transformed during wartime. The experiences of civilian women playing in munitions factory sports teams and undergoing female civil defence training, as well as the physical training available for women in the three auxiliary services of the armed forces, will be examined. It will be argued that the wartime emphasis of the government and the armed forces on the importance of sport in boosting female morale and physical fitness hugely increased opportunities for women of all social classes to participate in sport. The paper will end by assessing how far the war permanently transformed women's sporting lives, thus contributing to the fierce debates surrounding the impact of the war on British women in the years after 1945.

"For County and Country: United States Homemakers and Rural Home Fronts during World War II"

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From South Carolina to Alaska, rural women's participation in homemaker clubs proliferated against the backdrop of World War II in the United States. The Wisconsin State Home Demonstration Council, for example, spread from twelve to forty-eight counties from 1941 to 1948. Under a range of titles, such as Home Economic Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs, and Agricultural Extension Programs, rural women organized themselves across U.S. farmlands. While wartime women left their homes to fulfill positions as nurses, industrial laborers, and military personnel, homemakers remained at home as wives, mothers, and volunteers. Rural homemakers tended to family farms and communities - activities that, ironically, brought women outside of the context and domestic sphere of the home. This account examines Wisconsin homemaker clubs as a case study, and considers the authority of rural women as wartime laborers and homemakers in U.S. history. I argue that localized women's clubs not only drew on pre-existing farming skills in order to accommodate wartime initiatives, but also prioritized women's social and educational needs during the Second World War.

Lotta Svärd Organisation on the Home Front in Finland, 1939-1944

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The popularity of voluntary defence organisations, men's Civil Guards and women's Lotta Svärd, was extremely high in Finland. The voluntary defence movement organized local chapters in every town, municipality and village. Voluntary defence organisations were especially significant in the rural areas, where the vast majority (some 70 per cent) of the population lived at that time. Originally the women served as auxiliaries to the Civil Guards, with their main task being "to support the Civil Guards to protect home and fatherland." The Lotta Svärd became the most influential women's organisation in Finland during the inter-war period and throughout the Second World War during which they assisted mainly the Finnish Army. The activities of the Lotta Svärd were divided into four sub-sections: 1) office and communications, 2) provisioning, 3) collecting necessities and clerical work, 4) nursing. Each member belonged to one sub-section and was trained to perform their group's particular tasks. The members of the Lotta Svärd wore uniforms, but they were not a women's army since they were not allowed to carry guns. Despite this, some 90 000 Lottas served on the front or near the front.

However, the most crucial task of the Lotta Svärd was to serve at the home front. Lotta Svärd was very well organised and many important tasks, such as taking care of the refugees from Karelian isthmus, were left to them. All this work was voluntary. The majority of the Lottas were young, rural women who performed their several tasks on the home front in addition to their normal duties at homes and farms. The idea of my paper is to represent the role and agency of the Lotta Svärd on the home front, especially on rural areas.

Women Messages in French Post-Cards during WW1: A Visual, Textual, and Contextual Analysis

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The paper will position the use of postcards by women in France in the historical, political, and social context of WW1. As both a visual and textual support, the postcard presents a duality which is unique in popular culture, encompassing both the personal and intimate concerns as well as national aspirations. Firstly, postcards offered the soldiers' families or companions the opportunity to tell – or reassure about - their experience of the Civilian Zone, and were used as a means for unifying the Front Line and the Home Front, on either a familial or romantic level. Secondly, they were for the French State a discreet, but effective propaganda tool. In particular, they not only reassured the French population of the relative safety of their close ones, they also communicated the necessity to have children in time of war and guarantee the future of the Nation. From the actual messages, it is clear that there is a tension between the portrayal of the casual social amenities and romantic wishes on the one hand, and the hard realities of everyday life on the Home Front on the other hand, such as women's working lives and domesticity. Postcards thus show the very human aspect of war, more specifically women's individual strategies and tactics for practical and emotional survival on the Home Front during war and conflict.

The Female POW: From 8 Hours to Four Years

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As a faculty in the graduate level military academic system in the United States, it became quickly evident that there was a lack of history of women in war and combat being presented to student bodies. In fact, there was none. This led to my developing a course on some of the key female military and female civilians and their experiences across many ages during conflict and war. One of the units within this course of study is the history of the military and enlisted and officer female prisoner of war from the United States Civil War of the 1860's through World War II. Since 2013, I have conducted extensive research on several individuals from these periods; with the highlight being a personal interview with the only western female interned at the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War.

Females as prisoners of war met with a different set of circumstances of their male counterparts. It is little known that their leadership qualities were as extraordinary as male prisoners. Many were told not to tell their stories on their return home as they were an embarrassment to the nations they served. After all, what nation would let their women be captured? What were their circumstances? What were their capabilities as collective bodies in camps? How were they perceived by their captors and society when they returned home? Are there any consistencies across different conflict timeframes? How were the women chosen for this paper leaders to others and themselves? Each of these questions will be briefly covered for approximately five individuals. One woman each from the historical periods of the United States Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War will be described. Nationalities of these women are the United States, Germany and Russia. Four were military officers and enlisted personnel, one was a female non-profit volunteer interned in male military prison camps.

"She must hold the center of the stage and the reins of power": Classical Female Models in "Les Vaillantes" by Léon Abensour and "The Living Present" by Gertrude Atherton

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By the time the First World War had set in, suffragists in France were clear in their public claim that it was a woman's duty to override her rights in wartime, and to thereby seemingly put her campaign for the vote on hold. But it has been argued that they also used the strength of female patriotism to hide what was really a suffragist agenda. Pro-war nationalism, uncharacteristic of feminist rhetoric with its traditional ties to pacifism, offered an opportunity to showcase the strength of female support in the context of war. And in turn, this feminist nationalism was used as a vehicle to pursue long-term goals for suffrage.

Dominant expectations of women's roles in war were also indulged or challenged as a means of promoting their potential as true and worthy citizens. This paper examines two pieces of cultural representation celebrating the female war effort in First World War France.

Both published in 1917, Jewish French suffragist Léon Abensour's "Les Vailliantes" ('The Vailiant Women'), and early feminist writer Gertrude Atherton's "The Living Present", are essay compilations derived from both writers' observations during a period of time spent observing women's war work on the French Home Front. Of particular interest to this paper is the frequent deployment in both works, of models of womanhood and of female heroism hailing from classicism.

The paper aims to examine the ways in which these classical references are used as part of two individual suffragist discourses, and to explore the significance of such references in terms of women's identities on the Home Front.

Wait, watch – and work: 'business as usual' for Shetland's women in the war

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Many of the women of the Shetland Islands were accustomed to their men-folk being away from home and engaged in dangerous occupations at sea. They were also used to working, on the land as well as in the home, perhaps in the fishing industry and always knitting. Nevertheless the Great War brought new experiences, difficulties and concerns. Shetland women supported servicemen both away and in the Islands. Some found new occupations, even served as nurses or in the Armed Forces. Some found romance with a serviceman based in the Islands; more lost fiancées or husbands. Everyone in the tight-knit communities grieved for family members, friends, colleagues and neighbours. This paper considers what changed and what remained the same as the war progressed, what available sources say about attitudes of women towards the war and attitudes towards women related to the war.

'Families by Thousands, Far Too Proud to Beg or Speak': Supporting British Servicemen's Dependents during the South African War (1899-1902)

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The regular soldiers, reservists, militia and volunteers who fought for Britain in the South African War left behind them some quarter of a million dependent wives, children and aged parents. In the absence of adequate state assistance they were supported largely by private charity, usually through the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (SSFA) which disbursed over £1.2 million during the war. This paper investigates the work of the SSFA and its 12,000 mainly female volunteers in 1899-1902, examining the SSFA's approach to financial support for servicemen's dependents, its controversial and short-lived collaboration with the Charity Organisation Society, the parameters of its work at local level, and the class profile of its volunteers and their attitudes towards the working-class women who formed the vast majority of the SSFA's client base. In so doing it offers significant new insights into the impact of the South African War on the British 'home front' and on British women, both those working-class soldiers' wives and mothers who found themselves forced into dependency on private charity, and the elite women whose imperial patriotism was most easily expressed through war philanthropy. It also provides important historical context for the extension of state support to servicemen's dependents, and the state's continuing reliance upon the SSFA and similar charities, in the First World War.

Inventing the British Home Front: Women's Self-Militarisation in Pre-war and First World War Britain

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This paper explores the construction of the Home Front as a discursive concept in Britain in order to examine women's participation in this process and the consequences of their role. Focusing on the period between the 1870s and 1920, the paper identifies the main stages in the evolution of this construct. In the pre-war period these included the rise of the 'invasion novel' and public discussions about the new military and nursing reserves for home defence. Building on these foundations, during the First World War a host of images developed the concept of the Home Front. These included a wide range of representations of Britain at war, such as recruiting material for the armed forces and women's war organisations as well as propaganda portrayals of women's war work and of civilian women helping the war effort in their own homes.

The paper argues that women played a key role in the production of these images. Although numerous agencies generated representations of wartime Britain, publicists of female war organisations and feminist activists deliberately utilised and manipulated pre-war and wartime discourses of 'Britain under attack' in order to create and widen opportunities for women's war participation. This involved the increasing militarisation of women, including both war workers and civilians. Seeking to create a martial Home Front where 'armies of women' produced the manpower, munitions and morale required to achieve victory, female publicists intimately identified women with waging the war. The long-term consequences of these actions were highly detrimental. Interwar literary texts often portrayed the destructive forces of the war as female in origin and character, confirming misogynistic associations between the First World War and women in the popular memory of the conflict.

"Never truly feminine." Challenges to dominant discourses of female identity during the Second World War in the poetry of Lotte Kramer and Alice Coats

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During World War Two, under the constant threat of attack and annihilation, the British home became viewed as a place of sanctuary, to be guarded at all costs. Central to this notion was the female, whose duty was to "preserve the integrity of family life and keep an orderly home to which soldiers could return" (Honey, 1984). Indeed, such was the nation's dependence on its women, who "worked, shopped and cooked as usual while at night bombs fell around their homes" (Williams, 2006) that John G Winant, the US Ambassador to Britain during the conflict, referred to the Second World War as a "women's war" (Williams, 2006).

However, simultaneously in Allied propaganda, female images were appropriated to represent VD, death, disease, booty to be fought over, and even war itself (Gilbert and Gubar, 1994). Furthermore, Plain (in Hammill, Miskimmin and Sponenberg, 2006) has argued that the period was one of "unprecedented governmental control over women's lives." Additionally, viewed as essential to maintaining the morale of the fighting man, "female fidelity became national policy" (Hartley, 1997).

With close reference to the work of Lotte Kramer and Alice Coats, this paper argues that female-authored poetry responding to World War Two challenges such stereotypical views of women, portraying, instead, scenarios of empowerment, increasing economic freedom and newly-explored sexuality experienced by the women who had the Home Front as their "battleground" (Williams, 2006). Moreover, in so doing, it appropriates the genre of the war poem, which "is more exclusively masculine in its composition and outlook than any other comparable kind of writing" (Featherstone, 1995).

A 'position of peculiar responsibility': Quaker women and the relief of refugees on home fronts in Birmingham and beyond, 1914-24

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During the First World War a network of Quaker women in Birmingham were particularly active on behalf of refugees and non-British civilians affected by the conflict. They raised money and awareness, provided practical relief for Belgian refugees and for Serbian and Austrian children on the home front in Birmingham, and a number spent long periods undertaking relief work on other 'home fronts'- in France, Russia, Germany, Austria, Poland and elsewhere. Motivated by an opposition to war in all its forms they conceived of this activity as part of their witness for peace, a cause in which they also engaged politically through their support for The Hague Congress and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. As well as a commitment to peace they shared a background in local civic activism and suffrage campaigns, and came from families with a long tradition of engaging in issues of global social justice. Their shared personal faith underpinned both their opposition to war, and their sense of responsibility to intervene directly to alleviate its consequences, a responsibility that for them did not come to an end in 1918 but which continued well into the 1920s. This paper will consider how their understanding of this 'peculiar responsibility' and their resulting activism was shaped by their identities as Quaker women and the cultural transmission of a tradition of global concern within their families. It will also explore how the interplay of class and gender influenced the form of their activism, particularly when compared to their male siblings who were active in similar causes, and how their experiences of war influenced the trajectory of their subsequent engagement in broader campaigns for social change.

The Essential Accessory: Lipstick, Femininity and Morale in Britain during World War Two

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This paper investigates the extent to which the use of lipstick, as a symbol of femininity and morale, was central to the everyday concerns of women's lives in Britain during World War Two. Lipstick was promoted as an essential accessory to compensate for the aesthetic restrictions of clothes rationing and women's conscription into uniform and as an object which enabled women to preserve a feminine identity in the changing cultural and social framework of the period.

A central aim to the body of work examines how lipstick use which had occupied the personal sphere of women's lives became a matter for public discourse. As women adapted to their newly militarised work roles lipstick was marketed in order to sustain attributes of femininity and underpin more familiar images of female appearance and identity. The research therefore highlights the embedded messages of the ideological needs of the war effort towards managing the beauty culture of women and explores how lipstick in particular became one of the most contested objects.

The primary research draws on inter-textual, archival and oral testimony sources which frame the historical narrative of wartime lipstick and its representations. The use of oral testimony creates a site of cultural memory which illustrates from a personal female perspective the meanings that lipstick had accrued for the wearer distinct from both wartime rhetoric and media texts of the period.

The paper therefore aims to present a wartime narrative of British beauty culture and cosmetics advertising in order to illustrate how lipstick was considered to be the most emblematic of cosmetic items and as an object in the context of war became a repository of cultural meaning and performed a powerful symbolic function in signifying feminine identity.

Sticks and stones: defending house and home in an ancient Greek siege

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Women's lives in the ancient world are often thrust to one side by writers of the time. In the military sphere, women's voices are almost non-existent and they appear only as camp followers or those left behind to be defended by their men. This changes whenever a siege occurs. Suddenly, the home and the battlefield are one and the same, and the strict line which divides the genders in the ancient Greek city-state become blurred. Women would continue to undertake domestic duties (for example at the Siege of Plataea in 429-427, where one hundred and ten women stayed behind when the majority of the city was evacuated to cook for the men who were defending the city). However, advice from the fourth century BC advises city leaders to use women on the battlements to make the numbers of troops available appear greater to the enemy, demonstrating that gender lines could become flexible in an emergency. Women might also join in with the active fighting once a city wall was breached, climbing onto rooftops with their slaves and children in order to hurl roof tiles, stones, and anything else they could get their hands on at the invading enemy.

This paper will argue that while women are generally invisible elsewhere in ancient military history, siege warfare brings the women of the ancient Greek world into sight not only because sieges brought about unusual circumstances but also because women actively participated in the fighting without being judged transgressive by the male authors of our sources. This paper will also argue that there was an increase in the blurring of gender lines as sieges progressed and that transgressive behaviour became more likely (and less criticised) the greater the danger became.

Homefront continued? Marriage crisis and divorces after WW2 in Austria

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In the years after WW2 members of Austrian society experienced great uncertainty in many areas of life. In my presentation I will outline how fears for the "survival" and the re-constitution of the Austrian Nation were grouped around the nuclear family and were discursively expressed in "disaster rhetoric" used in debates regarding the crisis of gender relations. The results of the analysis of divorce court cases and four major women's magazines from 1945 to 1950 will show the agency of women and men within the system. Furthermore the court cases provide insights into legal ideas on the purpose and functioning of marital relations going back to the late 18th early 19th century jurisdiction. As in many other countries marriage was considered as the only meaningful way of life, a principle practically shown by the high rate of

remarriages following divorce during the post-war years. The family became stylized into the state-supporting institution, in which the “waiting woman” and “returnee” were converted into ideal gender roles of the re-earning “breadwinner” versus the stay at home “housewife”. Unlike in the UK where marriage counselling based on psychoanalytic insights was provided, the rhetoric in Austria solely addressed women with the task to save their relationships and their husband’s wellbeing through patience and sacrifice. This legally irrelevant trope of the “patient woman” is also frequently expressed in court rulings. Another analytic result is the functioning of the divorce reason “Lieblosigkeit” (unlovingness), a vague terminology yet particularly suitable for obtaining a quasi-amicable divorce, an option legally not available for couples at that time. Comparing the Austrian situation with other countries and embedding my research in a broader historiographical context my presentation will enhance comparative discussions on relationships and gender relations shaped by WW2.

Women as Renegades – Fighting for Peace During War

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The split in the Women’s Movement occurring in the United Kingdom over engagement in war was replicated in other parts of the British Empire. When the 1914-1918 war broke out, Emmeline Pankhurst’s rhetoric and actions in unreservedly ‘voting’ to supporting the war and the war effort met with approval and disapproval not only in Britain. The WSPU’s approach in putting women’s rights to one side was complied with or renounced by women in Canada, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia.

In Australia, where women had fought for and long since gained the vote, Vida Goldstein led the Women’s Peace Army, attracting to its ranks Adele Pankhurst and activist women who were joined in political struggle. They spoke out strongly against war, for peace, and for men to exercise their right of conscientious objection. They lobbied against proposals for compulsory enlistment, demonstrating, collecting signatures and presenting petitions. They demonstrated against the export of bread for troops in Europe, arguing that wheat shortages led to rising bread prices, so taking this staple out of the reach of the ordinary people, particularly the working class.

Goldstein and her confreres were assailed by the Prime Minister and government ministers, state and federal, who saw their actions and words as treasonous. State police were admonished to utilise federal laws against demonstrators, with women (Adele Pankhurst, Jennie Baines and Alice Suter) being the first to be charged under these regulations. When state police did not comply with the wish of federal authorities, a federal police force was created. Secret police followed the women and documented their activities in records now held in Australian archives.

This paper explores the challenge women made to the establishment in rejecting the call to support the war, explores reasons for women to take a stand that put them at odds not only with government but with women who sided with the war effort, and asks whether women were a particular target of repression.

First World War as a Fracture in Perception of Women’s Sexual Morality in Slovene Imaginarium

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This contribution addresses the significance of the turning point in the perception of women’s sexual morality during the Great War. We will discuss legislation related to these phenomena (e.g. laws concerning the prostitution, sexually transmitted diseases, curfew hours) and discourses of power. Both the ecclesiastical authority and temporal power claimed supervision of sexual morality, particularly with that of single women, war widows and married women whose men were fighting at the front but they differed in their approach to the issue and had different opinions on prostitution.

Along with the public discourses, we will discuss autobiographical sources (journals, memoirs, correspondence) to highlight intimate views of ordinary people on these topics. On the one hand, we will look into the women’s response to potential changes of sexual norms during the war, how they dealt with the consequences of out-of-wedlock (illegitimate) relationships or cohabitation and what views they held of the (sexual) behaviour of other women living in the hinterland. On the other hand, we will analyse opinions and responses of men (soldiers in particular) on the changed sexual behaviour of women during war. The memories of Slovenian soldiers often mention the moral decay and growing prostitution, longing for pre-war world, where the innocence and purity of women was assumed.

'Still wives, mothers, helpmeets, divorcees, widows and workers': white women's experiences of the home front during Rhodesia's liberation struggle c.1970-1980

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The memorialisation of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle continues to be a key event in the country's nationalist historiography. However, little academic attention has been paid to how the white community on the home front, particularly white women, experienced this period of the country's history, with Tanya Lyons noting that 'the voices of white women are somewhat silenced given the outcome of the war'. Drawing on the results of around 30 interviews carried out in 2009, and an analysis of letters to the country's main daily newspaper, The Rhodesia Herald, this paper fills this lacuna by exploring how white women experienced life on the home front during the country's protracted liberation struggle. It is argued that while some women did transgress notions of normative gender roles and 'appropriate' female behaviour, for the most part women were located as passive adjuncts of male actors. In addition, the paper also comments on the ways in which both the home front and the liberation struggle more broadly, have been remembered and recalled by the women interviewed. In doing so it explores how these white women, as historical actors, have created useable pasts that rely on highly selective readings of both the recent turbulent political situation in Zimbabwe and the country's apparent 'hey-day' under colonial rule. In doing so this paper explores a hitherto understudied geographical home front, that has received little attention from the discipline of women's history.

'A Good Housewife in Wartime': Food Rationing and the Construction of Femininity on the British Home Front

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The Second World War ushered in a conflict that was unprecedented in its all-encompassing nature. The extent of the conflict required both men and women living in Britain to pursue roles and engage in activities that they did not normally follow in peacetime such as civil defence and military service, creating an environment which posed challenges to idealised forms of hegemonic masculinity and domestic femininity. These altered wartime gender dynamics pervaded all aspects of home front life, including the administration of the food controls. The British government determined that it needed to mobilise housewives in order to ensure the success of the food regulations, resulting in rationing publicity that overwhelmingly targeted married women.

This paper will investigate how the government conceptualised married women's food activities in relation to wartime gender roles through an analysis of official propaganda in the form of radio broadcasts and newspaper columns. This examination will explore three key themes in the publicity including women's national duty, motherhood, and marital responsibilities. Through an examination of these areas, I will demonstrate that the government valorised women's cookery activities in order to promote idealised femininity and maintain hegemonic masculinity in the shifting gender climate of wartime. I will also show that the government's anxiety surrounding perceived deviations from prescribed gender archetypes resulted in publicity which questioned women's femininity, patriotism and morality. Overall, this paper will use food rationing as a lens to explore gender constructions, constraints and variations in a wartime environment.

Based on the examinations of Mass Observation material, wartime diaries in particular, this paper presents a narration of the British Kitchen Front during the Second World War through the testimonies of wives and mothers facing the wartime reality.

Whilst a number of studies have discussed the role of women involved in the war effort, not much has been said about the ordinary housewives and their wartime experiences. This paper contributes to a better understanding of the worries faced by spouses and mothers, as well as their everyday life difficulties, resulting from the rationing, shortage and disappearance of their usual commodities. Food in particular was significantly involved in the life of these women, the wartime restrictions provoking various and numerous complications on a daily basis as well as health concerns for their children.

Demonstrating the importance of the concept of the 'good wife and mother' and its influence on these women's perspective, this paper presents their reactions and their adaptations to wartime restrictions, sometime with actions unlikely to have existed, or even been imagined, prior to the war. From 'doing without' to the efforts made to 'keep it as normal as possible' we will see that the challenging wartime food situation resulted in new priorities and behaviours for these wives and mothers trying to sustain a family and preserve their children's well-being.

“Lincolnshire’s fisher lasses and landladies”?

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I shall examine women’s experience of the First World War Home Front in three towns on the east coast of Lincolnshire to see how the war changed their lives. The towns are Grimsby, Boston and Skegness. One of the duties of the Home Front was to continue to provide food. Boston and Grimsby were primarily fishing ports but Skegness relied more on its tourist trade than on fishing; it was also more middle-class. As so often when researching women’s lives, we find they are well hidden behind their men, or glimpsed as part of the family.

Fishing communities, large and small, were deeply poverty-struck and often very isolated from each other. Home conditions were primitive. Grimsby held an important position on the mouth of the Humber facing the North Sea because Britain expected to be invaded along the east coast. It was the greatest fishing port in the world due to the steam trawler, and most fishermen here were employed by one of the big fishing firms, with low wages and seriously bad working conditions. This inevitably impacted upon their wives who were often subjected to violence from their men but who could also find work in the fishing industry. There is very little information about fishing families in Skegness, but we can learn about the women who ran boarding houses, and their experience of the war. However, in fishing villages around the Wash, more men were self-employed and therefore helped by their women.

On the outbreak of war, all along the coast fishermen and their boats were commandeered by the Admiralty to become minesweepers. Women’s lives were therefore radically changed, but did they return to ‘normal’ at peace?

Confronting the front: shedding light upon the civilian population

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Between June 1915 and November 1917 the region along the Isonzo river experienced a series of twelve battles between the Austro-Hungarian and the Italian armies. The hundred kilometres long war zone of the so-called Isonzo front stretched from the Julian Alps to the Adriatic Sea and represented the Eastern sector of the Italian front. The battleground, which is often characterized as ‘the hell at the Isonzo river’, needs to be set alongside the battles of Verdun, the Somme, or Passchendaele.

The ferociousness of the warfare, which is still clearly imprinted in the landscape, has obscured the confrontations of civilian population within the vicinity of the battlefield. The majority of the population in the region was of Slovenian origin, settling mainly rural areas. After the general mobilization, approximately two thirds of the remaining civilians population were women, while the rest depended predominantly children, the elderly or infirm.

The paper will reconstruct the impact of total war upon the civilians in the Isonzo region with a focus on gender. How did women cope with their position as bread-winner? What were their survival strategies to overcome food-shortages, epidemics, property damage and other difficulties? How did they interact with the military? How did they emotionally react to the absence or loss of their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons? To what degree did the war spread rural women’s autonomy?

Methodologically, the paper is combining structural history with the history of everyday experience in order to contextualize both the generalities and the specifics of the Isonzo region. It is based upon archival documents and records, periodicals, ‘ego-documents’ (diaries, correspondence, memoirs, notes etc.) and has taken into account findings of local histories that have been unavailable to the non-Slovenian readers.

Florida's Wartime Campaign against Venereal Disease and the Women who Harbored It

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When the United States entered World War II, Florida had the highest rate of venereal disease in the nation. It also, because of its long coastline and clear skies, housed many naval and military bases. The conjunction of these two facts posed a problem for military and civilian authorities. While military personnel established hospitals, treatment centres, and prophylactic distribution points throughout the state, the state government waged a legal and propaganda war against both the disease and the women who carried it.

This paper will discuss the state's campaign. The state sponsored posters and radio programs. It issued VD stamps and lapel pins promoting testing. It even arranged for leaflets to be stuffed in with utility bills and dropped from airplanes.

The messages conveyed were complex and often contradictory. Women were portrayed as complicit in the spread of VD - harboring the enemy - but they were also limned as mothers failing to control their wayward daughters. Women's sexuality needed to be contained within marriage to protect the nation, and women were responsible for ensuring that this happened. The image of men was similarly complex. Heroes required to win the war were seen as innocent victims of their own virility. Male sexuality was a necessary component of military victory, but also a potential problem when VD reduced the fighting force. Thus, it needed to be channelled into safe, disease-free outlets.

Ultimately, the discovery that penicillin cured syphilis eliminated the problem of lost man-hours in the war effort and thus reduced the interest of authorities in containing the disease. Nonetheless, the propaganda campaign waged in Florida during the war offers insights into the very different ways female and male sexualities and gender identities were constructed in the middle of the twentieth century and the methods the state used to control and direct these identities.

"It's because we're just women"; Female reflections of the self in the workplace during the Second World War

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James Hinton (2002) notes that discourse on war, social change, and gender relations has leant increasingly towards negative conclusions. This paper will take a revised approach by arguing that whilst the Second World War did not dramatically transform the social status of women workers, at a personal level it can be regarded as being a liberating experience for women. I have interviewed 44 women, who worked during the war in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. This research will provide a more nuanced interpretation of female subjectivity and gender discourse by placing a local case study into a broader framework to assess the women's experiences nationally. My interviewees' reflections of work highlight some positive outcomes that women's working lives shaped constructions of their identities and perceived abilities. Women's position in the workplace, the division of labour, perceptions of their pay rates, training offered to them and their trade union involvement will be assessed.

This research follows Anna Green's assertion (2012) regarding the capacity of "active human agency", whereby individuals can reflect upon their lives. My interviewees' expressions of their identity as war workers can present themselves partially as passive and submissive to both the wartime state and employers. Implicitly female narratives characterise the position of working women as marginal and inferior. Women generally entered into war work with fewer qualifications and skills than male workers and accepted their lower status doing 'unskilled' women's work. However, nuanced readings of female testimonies reveal attempts to challenge the authority of employers to improve their circumstances, the existence of autonomous decisions and desires and the strength to work under testing circumstances. My interviewees have shown that their war work was a defined moment of their lives. Therefore different experiences and beliefs require analysis to understand personal memory and narratives of individual wartime workers.

F.A.N.Y - Drama

Anonymous is a Woman and Leila Sykes *la.sykes@live.co.uk*

Anonymous Is a Woman Theatre Company are a young company founded by Graduates from the Drama Centre London, Bips Mawson & Leila Sykes, who are dedicated to telling the unheard stories of women throughout history and across the world; we wish to tell herstory from history. The company are currently developing F.A.N.Y as our first full adaptation in 2014, having developed our practices through workshops and scratch performances thus far.

F.A.N.Y is a one-act piece of theatre about a group of extraordinary women who are members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry during the First World War. These incredible women drove ambulances from the front line of the bloody battlefield to the nearby Hospitals. They dealt with horrifically wounded and barely living young soldiers as well as mustard gas, enemy fire, tommye vehicles, and a tyrant of a nursing chief: they did their best to do their part. The show is based on real accounts already accessed from the F.A.N.Y records and the imperial war museum, and adapted from a novel by Robert Radcliffe. So little has ever been said about these war women; with the centenary of the beginning of WW1 falling this year we feel now is the perfect time for this story of courage, bravery and exception finally to be heard.

The Home Front in the "Westminster Village": Women in Parliament during the First and Second World Wars

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During the First World War, the Serjeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons employed four 'Girl Messengers'. These girls, the youngest of whom was just 14 years old, were the first women to be employed in Parliament in a role other than cleaning or catering. The Second World War saw more women taking on new jobs for the first time including Jean Winder, the first female Hansard reporter; more than 40 women working in a munitions factory underneath Central Lobby at the very heart of the Palace of Westminster; and several women auxiliaries, described as 'pot shots', in the Palace of Westminster Home Guard.

This paper will examine the Houses of Parliament as a case study of the Home Front during both the First and Second World Wars. In particular it will investigate some of the individual women workers in the broader context of women in the workplace in this period, consider examples of equal and unequal pay, and examine how some were retained and others dismissed when hostilities ceased. These women include May Court, employed following the death in action of her twin brother in the First World War, who rose to become House of Lords Accountant; and Kay Midwinter, appointed the first female Clerk in the House of Commons during the Second World War, who had a long career at the League of Nations and United Nations before and afterwards. Although an unusual example of the Home Front in action, the Houses of Parliament was perhaps surprisingly typical in how parts of its male workforce came to be replaced by women.

On the Border - Film

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A daughter's exploration of her Finnish family's history prompted by the letters, objects, and photographs left in her mother's apartment. Fragmented memories, dreams, and diary entries are juxtaposed with the director's journey to significant places and people in that history from during and after the Russo-Finnish wars, 1939-1944. Her mother, Lea, and her siblings were evacuated from the disputed border territory of Karelia and Lea's father was killed in 1941, fighting alongside the Germans against the Soviets. The story of her father's death in action is contrasted with the more indirect impact of the war and its aftermath on the destinies of Lea, her mother and siblings. Lea began to see and hear things from age 42. Thynne searches for the causes of her mother's breakdown as well as acknowledging that she can only understand her family's past through her own experience and imagination. In this hypnotic work of mourning and remembrance, past and present, associations, memory and imagining intertwine, as the film charts the lingering traces of conflict and exile across generations.

'Keep calm and carry on': reading emotion in third century women's portraits

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Third century portraiture has suffered radical misinterpretation. In his analysis of the so called 'soldier emperor' portraits L'Orange claimed that they captured the psychology of the subject in a 'transitory moment', reflecting the inner turmoil and unsettled emotions of the ruler at a time of great political and military crisis. For example one portrait is described as possessing a 'peculiar anxiety filled glimmering mobility' (1965, 106).

Not all third century portraits shared this emotional 'expressivity'. Most notably women's portraits seemed strangely passive when contrasted with their male counterparts. These portraits were consequently described as 'abstract' and symptomatic of another trend in third century portraiture which was described by Wood as a move towards 'abstraction'; that is a move away from anatomic accuracy and towards an intense symbolic emotionalism which she similarly describes as reflecting the trying and brutal times (1986, 88).

This scholarship is important in that it attempts to grasp the emotional symbolism of these portraits and consider them in their historical context. However, in truth, this work is more important in understanding modern responses than revealing ancient attitudes. The application of anachronistic terminology such as 'abstract' and the circularity of this interpretation (the third century was a period of crisis therefore portraits must express the anxiety caused by this crisis therefore portraits confirm that this was a period of crisis) cannot be ignored and has rightly been criticised (Smith, 1988, 257-258). Surely, therefore, this is a simplistic reading which raises the question of why an emperor or private individual would commission a portrait of themselves which expressed fundamentally negative emotions such as anxiety. A more nuanced, self-reflective criticism, which takes into account the historical position of the critic, is consequently required in order to reach a less time-sensitive interpretation.

In this paper, by placing third century women's portraits in the context of their form, history and provenance, I hope to create a methodology which allows me to ascertain the ancient intention of these portraits. I will argue that these portraits reflect the heightened ideological status of certain forms of Roman femininity in the late second to third century. Recognising this will help us to understand the emotions expressed in these portraits and the ideals of femininity projected through them. Rather than being expressive of spiritual escapism or emotional turmoil these portraits acted as a means of re-confirming and defining such traditional Roman ideals as restraint, *cultus*, and fortitude.

A recognition of the more subtle emotions expressed in women's portraits of this period will lead us to a more refined understanding of third century ideals and responses to troubled times. If we were to recast these in contemporary terms we would say the mantra 'keep calm and carry on' was pervasive.

Identity and the Home Front in A.T. Fitzroy's *Despised and Rejected*

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This paper is concerned with how the Great War served as a literary setting for the discussion on what it meant to be British and homosexual in the First World War. Rose Allatini wrote *Despised and Rejected* under the gender-neutral penname A.T. Fitzroy in 1918, when the war was still on. The novel was banned for its seditious content under the Defence of the Realm Act in the year of its publication. Yet, whilst its sympathetic approach to homosexuality was noted, it was its eloquent defence of Conscientious Objection that caused the ban. The novel intertwines the topics of pacifism, socialism and homosexuality quite remarkably in its set of unique characters. I shall focus on the central female character, Antoinette. Her story combines the subversion of the traditional romance plot, as she falls in love first with a woman and then with Dennis Blackwood, a gay Conscientious Objector, with the coming-of-age story of a young woman raised in a Francophone home seeking to find her place in British wartime society. Antoinette's awareness of politics and sexual deviance is minimal at the outset of the novel. Unlike Dennis, whose gender identity is challenged on account of his pacifist convictions and his homosexuality, Antoinette is a curious bystander through whose eyes we experience the tensions between the war-supporting Blackwood family in Eastwold and the pacifist leanings of Dennis and his socialist and artistic friends in London. *Despised and Rejected* is an important historical and literary source chronicling the early development of a homosexual discourse as well as the pacifist movement. This paper sets out to show the solidarity between different minority groups and how the antagonism Antoinette and Dennis face helps them to form their own identities. It will explore if and to what an extent patriotism and homosexuality are reconcilable.

Class, politics and gender: the Irish home front during the First World War

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The First World War had a very significant impact upon Irish society. It has been estimated that 210,000 Irish men served in the wartime British Army. In parallel to this army service, thousands of Irishwomen were mobilized to support the war effort on the homefront. In Ireland, as in Great Britain, the increased visibility of women in the public sphere and their entry into traditionally male areas of employment generated significant contemporary discourse and debate. The separation allowances awarded to soldiers' wives during the war were one area of particular anxiety. For many women the allowances represented their first regular income and it has been suggested that they contributed to wartime improvements in health and standard of living. However in both Great Britain and Ireland the allowances were a source of controversy. They were linked to reckless spending and increased excessive drinking by soldiers' wives. There was a clear class element involved in the discussion of the separation allowances, evident in its concern with working class spending patterns. The turbulent political situation in Ireland during the First World War also affected societal attitudes to the separation allowances. Maria Luddy has claimed that the 'separation woman' became the "new odious symbol of British rule in Ireland" and suggests that the disdain felt for the army recruit was projected onto the recruit's dependents. This paper will focus on the Irish homefront, particularly the discourse surrounding women in receipt of separation allowances, but will place this analysis within the wider context of the British homefront during the First World War.

Waiting Wives and False Reports: The Home Front in Fifth-Century BC Athens

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In the face of the near-silence of extant historical and material sources on women's experiences on the home front in fifth-century Athens, historians must turn elsewhere: to literary depictions of soldiers' homecomings in Greek tragedy. I focus in this paper on a single experience articulated by tragic waiting wives as a case study to test the limits of the tragic genre as a source for understanding the experiences of actual Athenian wives on the home front: tragic wives' difficulties dealing with rumors and false reports about their absent husbands.

In four extant tragedies, waiting wives confront false reports about their husband's death or successful return. Each tragedy imagines a different scenario: in Sophocles' *Trachiniae*, Deianeira learns that Heracles' messenger, Lichas, had lied to her about a woman who is not merely one of Heracles' war captives, but his concubine. In Euripides' two plays about homecoming, the *Heracles* and the *Helen*, the waiting wife receives news that her husband has died, only to encounter him alive, but battered by war, soon after. Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, which predates the above-mentioned plays, shows a wife combating these false reports by fashioning a beacon system. In a speech parroting the concerns of the waiting wife in order to deceive her husband, Clytemnestra describes how she constantly received false reports of her husband's death, which drove her to attempt suicide. Though it is not possible to glean historical fact from Greek tragedy, the pervasiveness of this trope in plays about homecoming and comparative evidence from more recent wars indicate that false reports probably constituted a significant fear for contemporary waiting wives, who had little access to reliable news.

Civilian fathers and servicemen sons in the English middle classes, 1914-18

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Histories of the First World War usually present a very straightforward portrayal of English middle-class fatherhood: fathers, deeply imbued in a culture that linked notions of manliness with patriotism and national pride, used all their authority to ensure that their sons did their duty by enlisting in the armed forces. The writer Rudyard Kipling's well-known determination to ensure that his short-sighted son should join up is thus seen as typical of attitudes more generally.

This paper, drawn from a wider project that explores middle-class civilian men's lives on the English home front during the First World War, aims to place this conventional image of middle-class fatherhood under scrutiny, and assess whether it fitted with the actual experiences of 'ordinary' middle-class men with sons of military age.

The paper will begin by exploring the tension between notions of middle-class manliness that stressed fathers' protective and indeed nurturing roles, and the expectation that they should be content to see their sons risking their lives and limbs on the battlefield. The result, the paper will go on to suggest, was that fathers were just as likely to try and dissuade their sons from enlisting and to defend the actions of sons who did not enlist, as to try and push them into the armed forces. The final section of the paper will then explore the relationship between fathers and sons in those cases where the latter did enlist, paying particular attention to the extent to which relationships were changed and perhaps even undermined by the separation between home and battlefronts and by the younger men's experiences of war.

The economy of emotions: German women's illicit love affairs with PoWs in the Second World War

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Drawing on a substantial body of new archival material, e.g. transcripts of police interrogations and especially letters and mementos secretly exchanged between German women and their foreign lovers, I shall examine how women practised sex and talked about it during the Second World War. Many thousands of young women were denounced, interrogated and convicted for conducting illicit affairs with POWs and punished with penal servitude. Thus at the level of the state they were expelled from the national community and became outsiders just like their foreign boyfriends. They were accused of destroying German honour, undermining the war effort and endangering racial purity especially if their lovers stemmed from Eastern European countries. Contrary to Nazi propaganda, my sources reveal a counter picture of both POWs and their German mistresses: female defendants' own narratives speak of admiration for these prisoners on account of their often impressive work ethic, their affectionate nature and their powerful sex appeal. As a sign of tacit tolerance or even approval women's immediate community often shielded both women and their lovers from the attention of constables and Gestapo officers. Finally, these judicial files can shed rare light on how women under the special conditions of war expressed their desire and what role they played in sexual encounters. Did wartime fundamentally change women's behaviour? Was there a special allure of foreign men and Frenchmen in particular? What light do these relationships throw on gender relations, women's war-time experience and their view of marriage and motherhood?

Remembering Scarborough

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On 16th December 1914 the seaside towns of Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool fell victim to a bombardment from German Navy. In Scarborough 18 people died including a 14 month old baby. It was with a heavy heart that Britain was forced to face the fact that the way wars were fought had changed and that a literal 'homefront' now existed as well as front lines of battle. Women and children were now targets as well as soldiers.

The event became a huge tool for propaganda - the newspaper 'The Scarborough pictorial' recorded the event in unprecedented detail: from details of the houses hit, to details of the individuals affected, to pictures of the funerals and the impact of the bombardment. A recruitment poster stating 'Remember Scarborough' was put into wide circulation and had a large impact on volunteering.

We are also able to learn about the impact of the bombardment from other, more intimate, sources. St Margaret's School in Escrick was formerly based in Scarborough. Material from this school includes: school magazines dating from just after the bombardment featuring accounts, a letter from the headmistress Rosalind Fowler dated November 1914 outlining the 'procedures' they would have to follow if Scarborough were to be attacked from the coast and a note from the school provost to a schoolgirl praising her bravery during the attack.

These sources give unprecedented access into the way that the women and children dealt with the impact of the bombardment and how plans were made for potential future attacks.

This paper will seek to reveal how the bombardment was recorded by the women it affected, how their suffering was used for recruitment propaganda and how they planned for life on the 'homefront' in wake of the war being brought to their doorstep.

Ways to remember his-stories: The First World War through the lens of Florence Camm's stained glass memorials

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Florence Camm (1874-1960), stained glass artist at the studio of T. W. Camm, Smethwick, produced many memorials to the First World War. Camm did not serve in the war, nor was she an official war artist. Her work is a perspective often overlooked, the home front perspective. To what extent Camm's war memorials were influenced by her own experiences during the war, by written accounts in newspapers or magazines of the day, other artistic interpretations of the war or letters sent by her brother, conscripted 1917, will be discussed. The outbreak of the war and the onset of conscription in 1916 opened up opportunities to women, they participated in society and industry in ways previously denied. The First World War provided a level of autonomy to Camm enabling the introduction of female employees to the firm. This paper will consider whether this was a lasting legacy or short lived.

Her working practices and motifs contrast to the focus of national mourning, exemplified by the minimalism of the Cenotaph in London, and provides evidence of a continuing example of the Arts and Crafts tradition exemplifying quality of method and materials. Equally in Camm's memorials there are fine art references and connections in her work that can be understood as part of the art historical narrative of the time, an aspect that has not been acknowledged in current literature. This paper will discuss how gender and social class are represented by Camm through a complex illustration of contemporary events interwoven with religious iconography that depicts soldiers as allegorical sainted warriors, anonymised or uniformed recognisable individuals in contrast to women represented as dainty figures. Finally, this paper will present how Camm incorporated signifiers of the work women undertook on the home front, such as the production of mills bombs, within her work.

'Waiting is the women's role'. The Falklands War (1982) the 'Home Front'.

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On 2nd April 1982, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, overpowered the small division of British marines stationed there, and installed an Argentine military governor. On the following day Argentina then occupied the South Georgia Islands, part of the Falklands dependencies. The Falklands were 8,000 miles away; there was no air base available to the British within the islands range and the only Royal Navy ship in the area was the Antarctic survey vessel HMS Endurance, which was soon to be withdrawn. However, Britain began an operation to recover the islands.

The historiography of the Falklands reveals that shortly after the conflict ended, a mass of literature concerning the war appeared. A search of the secondary sources reveals that this literature predominantly falls into one of four themes. [i] Interviews or personal accounts from members of the Task Force, who had their own heroic tale to tell. [ii] Journalistic accounts of the war, written by members of the press who accompanied the Task Force. [iii] Political interpretations, mostly on Prime Minister's Margaret Thatcher's role and how the conflict raised her popularity amongst the British electorate. [iv] One of the most frequent analyses appears to be on the media's coverage of the war.

There is, however, virtually no mention made of wives and families of the servicemen; when mention is made it is in stereotypical context of supportive wife waiting. The women are rarely asked for their thoughts and views. My paper, using news bulletins shown at the time, secondary data and interviews carried out as part of my PhD will examine how the service wives (focusing predominately on the wives of Royal Navy personnel) and the home front were portrayed in the media. My paper, and my research, will add to the historiography of the war and a greater understanding of not just the war but the coping strategies of military families.

Questioning the 'political' during the People's War

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Whilst women have been placed at the centre of debates about social change in Second World War Britain, they are largely absent from the political historiography of the period. This is surprising because, as Geoffrey Field notes, 'few topics in twentieth-century British history have attracted more attention' than wartime politics (2011). This paper seeks to address this lacuna by examining women's relationship to politics in a sample of women's diaries that were written for Mass Observation during the Second World War. It argues that the crisis period of the war gave women more scope to express themselves politically. However the paper also suggests that we need to complicate our understanding of what being 'political' means; particularly during wartime which has traditionally meant such different things for men and women.

"Your petitioner lost not only her husband...": Royalist widows as guardians of their family estates during the Civil Wars and Interregnum

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Throughout the Civil Wars of 1642-1652 England's 'home front' was one where the realities of conflict were always close at hand. Women of both sides waved husbands off to war who would often never return. Those wives whose husbands fought for the King had to suffer not only emotional but severe financial consequences if their husband died. For Parliament sought to finance their war effort through confiscating Royalist estates and rents. So these women were left without a husband, often with many children, and without the prospect of any means of support unless they could regain their husband's lands. This paper will explore the survival strategies of those Royalist widows seeking to regain their estates using the State Papers in The National Archives. Women petitioned Parliament alongside Royalist men in the interests of themselves and their families. In these petitions we find emotive language of their distress, sophisticated knowledge of their entitlement to inherited lands as well as an account of their husband's decision (or otherwise) to fight for the King and their own assertion of loyalty to Parliament despite this. Through this study therefore we can learn more about the ways in which women fashioned their own identity through petition narratives and self description in order to survive the harsh conditions of the period. Royalist women stepped out of traditional gender roles and interacted with the public political world in ways that have largely only been studied for Parliamentarian and Leveller women. They remind us that women throughout history had the capacity to respond to the realities and aftermath of war with tenacity and resilience.

HOME FRONTS: GENDER, WAR AND CONFLICT

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