

**Contested Commemorations:
Reflections on the centenary of the First World War,
2013-2019**

**A Royal Historical Society Symposium at the Open University
17th May 2019.**

Berrill Lecture Theatre, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA



This Symposium will reflect on how the war was commemorated in a range of different countries between 2013 and 2019. The centenary of the signing of most of the peace treaties related to the conflict in 2019 is an excellent vantage point to reflect on six years of commemoration and ask a number of important questions. How did different countries seek to commemorate the war? How did such commemoration differ, and why? Why did the origins of the war become a controversial topic once more? How did the centenary play out in countries that entered the war much later than others, and countries that were colonies during the wartime period? How did the war's different end-points play out for national commemorations? How were the different national memories of the experience of the war reflected in planned and actual commemorative events? And, most importantly, what do we know now that we did not know before the centenary, and how might this affect the future trajectory of First World War studies?

This event is free to attend. Please visit the Contested Commemorations Eventbrite page [here](#) to book your place. The event will also be live-streamed through this [link](#) for those who can't make it in person. Those watching online will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers. For further details, please contact vincent.trott@open.ac.uk.

Programme

10.00 – 10.15

Arrival, tea and coffee

10.15 – 10.30

Welcome from Professor Annika Mombauer and Professor John Wolffe (The Open University)

10.30 – 11.30 Keynote Lecture

Professor Jay Winter (Yale University): ‘The Centenary of the Great War: Unfinished Business?’

Chair: Dr Vincent Trott (Open University)

11.30 – 13.00 Panel 1: Europe

‘Commemoration of the First World War in Britain 2014-2018’

Dr Helen McCartney (King’s College London)

‘Local and National Commemorations of the First World War in France’

Dr Alison Carrol (Brunel University)

‘2014: Germany remembers the First World War’

Professor Annika Mombauer (Open University)

Chair: Dr John Slight (Open University)

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch (free for all attendees)

14.00 – 15.30 Panel 2: Africa and Asia

‘Commemorating the war in the Middle East during a time of turbulence’

Dr John Slight (The Open University)

‘Centennial Commemoration in an age of Multiculturalism: The Case of South Asia’

Professor Santanu Das (Oxford University)

‘Who in Africa remembered? Who remembered Africa?’

Dr Anne Samson (Independent Scholar)

Chair: Dr Luc-Andre Brunet (The Open University)

15.30 – 16.00

Tea and coffee break

16.00 – 16.30

‘Commemoration in the Museum Sector’, Laura Clouting (Imperial War Museum)

Chair: Professor Annika Mombauer (The Open University)

16.30 – 17.30: Roundtable discussion featuring all speakers

Chair: Dr Vincent Trott (The Open University)