



# *The Military Welfare History Network 2023 conference*



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Venue: Sutherland School of Law,  
University College Dublin



University College Dublin



Center for Military, War, and Society Studie

Society for  
the History  
of War

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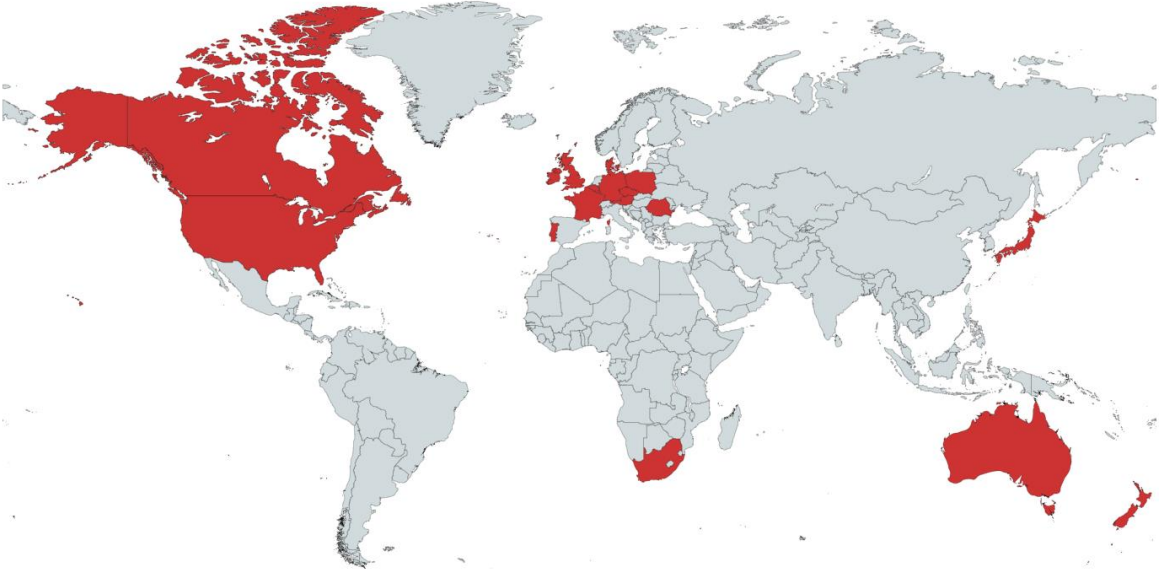
**Society for  
the History  
of War**



# Network Update

Total Members	HEI	Other	Independent	Country
148	106	7	3	20

England	49
USA	40
Ireland	11
Canada	9
Germany	5
Australia	4
Romania	4
Austria	3
Northern Ireland	3
Japan	2
New Zealand	3
Portugal	2
Scotland	2
Belgium	4
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
France	2
Luxemburg	1
Poland	1
South Africa	1



# The Conference

## Overview

To best understand where contemporary military welfare systems are working, failing and going in the future we must first understand where they came from and how they got to where they are today. This can be done through a chronologically and geographically diverse analysis of various historical state-directed and voluntary or charitable processes. Such a comparative undertaking serves to develop our knowledge and understanding of the intersectional, multifaceted and long-term evolution of such specific welfare provisions. Thus, the Military Welfare History Network will host a one-day interdisciplinary conference at Dublin to facilitate this process.

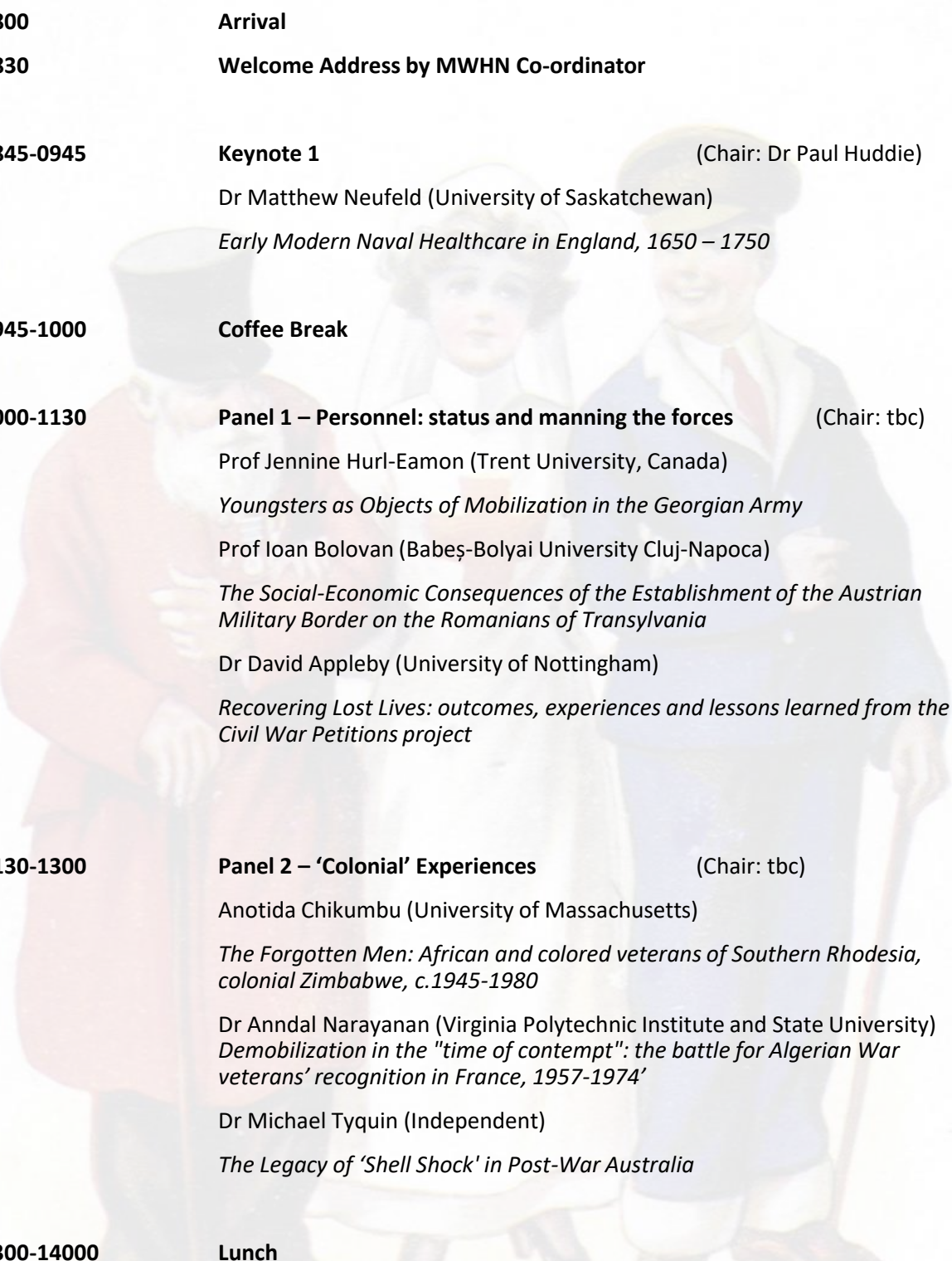
## Objectives

The objectives of this academic conference are three-fold.

1. To bring together the leading, established academics and early career researchers from around the world who are actively engaging the historical developments in the areas of welfare, care and medical provisions afforded to service personnel, their families (partners and children) and other dependants. The conference demonstrates that valuable research has been and is being undertaken by a burgeoning cohort within the academy and beyond who focus on varied regions, conflicts and periods. Research that provides an historical underpinning to contemporary welfare systems and provisions and can not only be used to critically evaluate the same but also has the potential to influence going forward.
2. To provide a forum where all of these scholars of a distinct area of women's/gender, social (welfare and policy), legal and military history can come together to present, discuss and debate their research findings relative to this still understudied yet hugely important aspect of the global and transnational social history of the military.
3. To develop a tangible output from these interactions, through an edited collection of conference essays.

This conference does not endeavour to bring together all scholars working in the diverse field of 'military welfare' but rather a nucleus of the foremost researchers, who have already been connected to one another through the Military Welfare History Network, with a view to stimulating greater interest and encouraging further research in this area and the organisation of similar events elsewhere in the world.



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- 0800**                      **Arrival**
- 0830**                      **Welcome Address by MWHN Co-ordinator**
- 0845-0945**              **Keynote 1**    (Chair: Dr Paul Huddie)  
Dr Matthew Neufeld (University of Saskatchewan)  
*Early Modern Naval Healthcare in England, 1650 – 1750*
- 0945-1000**              **Coffee Break**
- 1000-1130**              **Panel 1 – Personnel: status and manning the forces**                      (Chair: tbc)  
Prof Jennine Hurl-Eamon (Trent University, Canada)  
*Youngsters as Objects of Mobilization in the Georgian Army*  
Prof Ioan Bolovan (Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca)  
*The Social-Economic Consequences of the Establishment of the Austrian Military Border on the Romanians of Transylvania*  
Dr David Appleby (University of Nottingham)  
*Recovering Lost Lives: outcomes, experiences and lessons learned from the Civil War Petitions project*
- 1130-1300**              **Panel 2 – ‘Colonial’ Experiences**    (Chair: tbc)  
Anotida Chikumbu (University of Massachusetts)  
*The Forgotten Men: African and colored veterans of Southern Rhodesia, colonial Zimbabwe, c.1945-1980*  
Dr Anndal Narayanan (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)  
*Demobilization in the "time of contempt": the battle for Algerian War veterans' recognition in France, 1957-1974'*  
Dr Michael Tyquin (Independent)  
*The Legacy of 'Shell Shock' in Post-War Australia*
- 1300-14000**              **Lunch**

**1400-1530**

**Panel 3 – Medical and Care**

(Chair: tbc)

Dr Michael Reeves (Open University)

*'The Soldiers' Friend': tobacco consumption, medicine and morale in Victorian and Edwardian Britain*

Dr Erin Spinney (University of New Brunswick in Saint John)

*Welfare for the Carers: nurses and the British fiscal-naval state 1750-1815*

Dr Michael Robinson (University of Liverpool)

*The Contestation of Welfare: a comparative case study of the 'burnt out' and 'prematurely aged' veteran debate'*

**1530-1700**

**Panel 4 – Women, Families & Society**

(Chair: tbc)

Dr Karen Sonnelitter (Sienna College)

*'Widowed Wretches and Pitiabale Orphans': philanthropy and military families in the long eighteenth century*

Dr Nadine Muller (Liverpool John Moores University)

*War Widows' Stories: women, welfare, & conflict in post-war Britain*

Dr Helen Schneider (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

*Women-designed Welfare in China's Wartimes of the 1940s*

**1700-1715**

**Coffee Break**

**1715-1815**

**Keynote 2**

(Chair: Dr Paul Huddie)

Dr Ke-chin Hsia (Indiana University Bloomington)

*War and Welfare in Austria in the Age of the Great War*

**1815**

**Concluding Remarks by MWHN Co-ordinator**

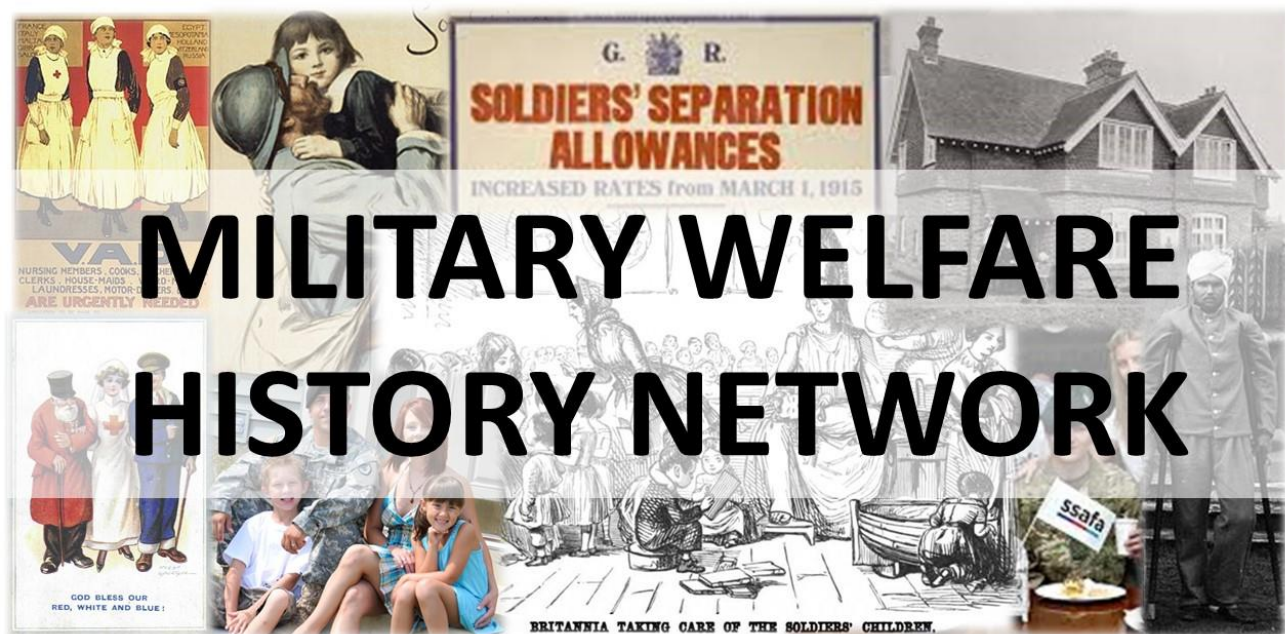
**1845**

**Reception in UCD Club**

**1930**

**Conference Dinner in UCD Club**

# The Military Welfare History Network



The network has brought together historians, social scientists and others who research welfare, care and medical provisions relating to armed forces personnel and their families in and across all geographical and cultural spaces, chronologies and thematic areas, with a view to promoting their research, expanding their networks and developing new and exciting collaborations.

It comprises nearly 100 academic researchers active in the broad and diverse area of MWH, who are based at or affiliated with nearly 100 higher education institutions and other organisations in 16 countries across the globe. To these are added nearly a dozen affiliated projects, centres and organisations. Together they are sharing their immense expertise; developing research consortia, publications and projects; and endeavouring to develop this immensely diverse and important interdisciplinary field of research, education and public policy.

The network provides an interaction and dissemination platform for scholars who are research active in military welfare history. Something that has heretofore been lacking, despite the existence of several societies and network that focus on the research of war or more specifically veterans and their families.

Research can relate to any chronological period, ranging from antiquity to the contemporary, and can be conducted by scholars from the arts, humanities and social science research, globally. This comprises work on state and non-state welfare provisions, perceptions, organisations and policies relating to service personnel, both serving and discharged, and their families and other dependants, and even representations of military welfare.