

Nineteenth-Century Workshop
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ
October 4-5, 2018

War/After War: Memory, Fear, Indifference

In 2018, Rutgers' Nineteenth Century Workshop will address the long-lasting effects of war on nineteenth-century literature and culture. The military struggles that define the nineteenth century as a period—the revolutionary violence in America, France, and the Caribbean in the late 18th century and the first global conflagration in the early 20th—are at once political events establishing new social arrangements, and cultural ones provoking reflection, memory, and debate.

And yet, the place of military conflict in the cultural imagination varies strikingly depending on specific national traditions. European wars look different from the vantage point of the far reaches of Empire, as does the struggle over New World territory from the perspective of the enslaved or the newly emancipated. The nationalisms that emerged all over the world in the period bore a complex relationship to both colonial expansion and domestic revolt. As none of England's many nineteenth-century wars took place on its soil, the involvement of the general population was intermittent and highly mediated. By contrast, a civil war that caused the death of more Americans than any foreign struggle explicitly structures the study of nineteenth-century American literature and culture, installing a sharp break in the middle of the century and recasting narratives of national and regional belonging on either side of this divide.

Keynote address by
Jed Esty, University of Pennsylvania
"War Genres After War or, Endless Enemies"
Thursday, October 4th, 5:00-6:30PM
Reception to follow

Workshop Sessions

Thursday, October 4th, 1:00-4:30PM

Cornelia Pearsall, Smith College
Travis Foster, Villanova University
Nasser Mufti,
University of Illinois at Chicago
Yon Ji Sol, University of Minnesota

Friday, October 5th, 9:30AM-1:00PM

Greg Laski, Carnegie Mellon
Todd Carmody,
University of Pennsylvania
Aeron Hunt, Boston College
John Funchion, University of Miami
Rachel Teukolsky, Vanderbilt University

All panels and the keynote
will be held in the
Rutgers Academic Building,
15 Seminary Place,
West Wing, Room 6051.

The Workshop will include 9 pre-circulated papers. For access to workshop papers, and further information on the event, please contact Tatianna Pasley-Smith: pasleytm@rutgers.edu.

Sponsored by the Rutgers British Studies Center and Americanist Seminar

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