

**Laughing and coping during World War One:
Studying the mechanisms and forms of humor and entertainment**



MARCH 24, 2016 – University of Bedfordshire, LUTON (UK)

University Square
Luton, Bedfordshire
LU1 3JU

A one-day conference co-organized by the University of Bedfordshire, University Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle (EA 4399 CREW / CRAN) and Central Connecticut State University.

9.30 Registration and coffee

10.00 am Opening

10.15 am Keynote – Michael Hammond (University of Southampton, UK)

Dr. Michael Hammond, a leading scholar in war and film, is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Southampton. He took his BA in History at California State University Los Angeles, his MA in Film Studies at the University of East Anglia, and his PhD at Southampton Institute. He is the author of numerous publications on war and cinema, including *The Big Show: British Cinema Culture in the Great War (1914-1918)* (2006), *British Silent Cinema and the Great War* (Ed. 2011). He is currently working on a British Academy funded project entitled *The After Image of the Great War in Hollywood, 1919-1939*.

11.15 am Panel 1 [*Moderator: Alexis Weedon*]

- Emily Anderson (Newcastle University, UK): Soldiers as Comic Heroes in British First World War Texts

- Nicolas Bianchi (Université Montpellier-Paul Valéry, FR): Laughing in the French Trenches. Literary Perspectives on a Historical Phenomenon
- T. Adrian Lewis (VU University Amsterdam, NL): Mobilizing Morale: American Ambulance Drivers and the Road to US Intervention

12.45 pm Lunch

1.45 pm Panel 2 [*Moderator: Karen Randell*]

- Steven Gerrard (University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK): “Oh we don’t want to lose you but we think you ought to go. For your King and Country need you so.” The British Music Hall and its importance to the Great War
- Robert Dean (University of Lincoln, UK): Sketches, Satire, and the Music Hall Stage during the First World War
- Giannandrea Poesio and Alexis Weedon (University of Bedfordshire, UK) : Theatre with a view: Hugh Walpole and WW1 Russian entertainment

3.15 pm Tea

3.30 pm Panel 3 [*Moderator: Karen A. Ritzenhoff*]

- Fabrice Lyczba (Université Paris Dauphine, FR): Hoaxes, stunts, and other jokes: humor and the American marketing of Hollywood war films during the Great War
- Barry Nevin (National University of Ireland, Galway, IE): From Cartier to Cagoulard: Entertainment and the Perils of Distraction in Jean Renoir's war correspondence and films
- Matthew Leggett (Université de Bourgogne, FR): Edmund B: a lion among donkeys? Satire in the comedy series Blackadder Goes Forth

5.00 pm break

5.30 pm Screening and discussion:

Les Gosses de la Butte (1916), *Love and Duty* (1916), *The Sinking of the Lusitania* (1918), *The Bond* (1918), *Doing his bit* (1918), *On Doit Le Dire* (1918), *A.W.O.L* (1918)

6.30 pm Drink reception

NO REGISTRATION FEE, lunch offered to the participants by the organizing team.

Please confirm your presence to:

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