

# DOING ANTHROPOLOGY IN WARTIME AND WAR ZONES

Ludwig Uhland Institute for Empirical Cultural Studies (Tübingen)

## General information:

Interdisciplinary conference  
organized by the Collaborative  
Research Center (SFB) 437: War  
Experiences – War and Society in  
Modern Times and by the Ludwig  
Uhland Institute for Empirical  
Cultural Studies at the University of  
Tübingen.

Date: December 7-9, 2006.

Location: Univ. Tübingen.

The conference's aim is to explore the connection between modern war and the anthropological disciplines. The theme is therefore not the anthropology of war itself (as a universal human phenomenon), but rather war as an experiential space and science as social action within that space. The rise of globalized, modern warfare produced intercultural encounters on an unprecedented scale, and anthropologists/ethnologists saw themselves as experts for »foreign culture«. Based on our knowledge of the links between this nascent academic discipline and empire-building, the conference seeks to discuss how this connection was carried over into the situation of world war. Where did scientific practices formed under the conditions of colonialist expansion continue and where did they cease or become modified by war experience?

For this reason, the historical focus of the conference will be on the years leading up to and including the First World War as a critical juncture in the development, specialization, and institutionalization of the anthropological sciences. How does war limit, change, but also support and make possible ethnographic research practices? What kinds of experiences do anthropologists have as participants in the war effort and/or as victims of it? What effect does the war have on the direction anthropology takes as a scholarly discipline, in particular for the increasing specialization and thus drifting apart of its various subfields? Papers which go beyond the focus of the era of the First World War are warmly welcomed, but for the sake of comparability, they should focus on wars and/or violent conflicts in which nation-states are involved.

The conference would particularly like to address the issue of how modern war offered anthropologists and related disciplines specific spaces created by warfare, thereby opening new fields of research. In the material as well as the discursive sense, war creates its own spaces and places, such as prisoner-of-war camps, refugee camps, cities under siege or as battle zones, occupied territories, frontlines, enemy territory. At the same time, certain geographical areas and their indigenous populations were symbolically constructed as war zones or regions of endemic warfare, such as the Balkans or the Caucasus. Papers from any relevant field are invited which address and analyze issues of ethnographic practices involved in creating such war zones and/or scholarly activities undertaken in spaces created by and in wartime.

## Programme

Thursday, December 7, 2006

### The Great War and the Discipline I

Chair: Reinhard Johler (Tübingen)

- 2:30 **Reinhard Johler** (Tübingen): The War and the Anthropological/ Ethnological Disciplines. Introductory Remarks to the Conference
- 3:30 **Gottfried Korff** (Tübingen): Die deutsche Volkskunde im Ersten Weltkrieg
- 4:30 Coffee Break
- 5:00 **Margit Berner** (Vienna): Mapping Nations: From Large Scale Anthropological Investigations in the Military and Schools to the POW Studies in the Austro-Hungarian Empire
- 6:00 **Christian Promitzer** (Graz): In the Cause of the Nation: A Comparative Look at Physical Anthropology in Bulgaria and Serbia (1912-1919)
- 8:00 Dinner

Friday, December 8, 2006

**The Great War and the Discipline II**

**Chair:** Monique Scheer (Tübingen)

- 9:00 **Andrew D. Evans** (New Paltz): Science Behind the Lines: The Effects of World War I on German Anthropology
- 10:00 **Henrika Kuklik** (Philadelphia): Continuity and Change in British Social Anthropology 1914-1919
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:30 **Marina Mogilner** (Kazan): Doing Anthropology in Russian Military Uniform
- 12:30 Lunch

**Ethnography and the Military**

**Chair:** Andre Gingrich (Vienna)

- 2:30 **Irma Kreiten** (Tübingen): Subjugating and Civilizing the Peoples of the Caucasus: The Origins of »Embedded« Ethnography
- 3:30 **Michael Pesek** (Berlin): The Meaning of Victory: The Beginnings of Colonial Anthropology During the Conquest of East Africa (1889-1903)
- 4:30 Coffee Break
- 5:00 **Wolfgang Fuhrmann** (Kassel): The Aesthetics of Prison-of-War-Camp Films in Early Cinema
- 6:00 **Harald Salomon** (Berlin): Assignment Japan: The Study of Culture at a Distance by World War II American Anthropologists

Saturday, December 9, 2006

**The Camp and the Archive**

**Chair:** Christian Marchetti (Tübingen)

- 9:00 **Britta Lange** (Berlin): AfterMath: Anthropological Data from POW Camps
- 10:00 **Monique Scheer** (Tübingen): The Audible Enemy: Phonographic Recordings in the POW camps of WWI
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:30 **Margaret Olin** (Chicago): Jews Among the Peoples: Visual Archives in German Prison Camps During the Great War
- 12:30 Lunch

**Balkan Ethnography and the Warzone Imaginary**

**Chair:** Bernhard Tschöfe (Tübingen)

- 2:30 **Diana Reynolds** (San Diego): Swords into Souvenirs: Bosnian Artisans and the Austro-Hungarian Occupation
- 3:30 **Ursula Reber** (Vienna): The Experience of Borders: Tribesmen at War (Montenegro)
- 4:30 Coffee Break

- 5:00 **Christian Marchetti** (Tübingen): Scientists with Guns: The Exploration of the Occupied Balkan Territories by k.u.k Ethnographers in World War I
- 6:00 **Andre Gingrich** (Vienna): Summary and closing remarks

