

Women War Reporters in the First World War

A Reading and Research Seminar

Summer Semester 2022

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Course Description

War reporters are closely connected to the cultural, military and social history of the First World War. Whether they reported from the battle fields, the vicinity of the front or the home front, they offered their eyewitness accounts of the war and its impact on soldiers and civilians to the wider public. Technological developments such as railways, the telegraph and later photography made the immediate dissemination of information and images over long distances and across national borders possible.

It has been argued that the First World War was reported from an almost exclusively male perspective and that woman war reporters were rare. This seminar sets out to challenge this view. Between 1914-1918 women journalists from belligerent and neutral countries gained access to the war theatres and published their eyewitness accounts and photographs in newspapers and magazines around the world. A small number of women were formally accredited by the armed forces. More often, female war reporters worked on informal assignments for their newspapers or combined war journalism with nursing or other war-related roles. Women covered all aspects of the war, from the fighting on the fronts, the stories of wounded soldiers and the destruction of towns and landscapes to the impact of the war on women and children at home, thus complementing the war images provided by men.

This seminar will familiarise you with the lives and work of women war reporters. We will not only study key texts of the historiography, but also explore primary source materials from international digitised newspaper archives (mostly in English, but also in other languages, depending on the language skills of participants). By reading about women's lives, and reading the texts they wrote, you will be acquainted with the First World War and the role women journalists played in representing the conflict to the wider public.

In this course you will practice historical methodology through

- research in digital (newspaper) archives
- reading of primary sources and secondary literature
- discussion in class
- oral presentations
- writing (minutes of discussions, (optional) research paper)

Course Requirements

This class is taught in English.

Come to each class and be an active participant by completing readings before class and taking part in discussions.

Detailed course assignment sheets will be made available through Stud.IP, but here is an overview of the work for the course:

3 CP	<p>Mandatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly readings of the secondary literature; - Research in digitised newspaper archives and oral presentations of the findings in class (including printed handout, to be sent to instructor 4 days before class, and upload on Stud.IP); - Oral presentations of the reading of one week and moderation of the discussion in class; this can be done by a group of students (depending on the number of participants); - Written minutes of the discussions in one class; this can be done by a group of students (depending on the number of participants); - All assigned work is <u>ungraded</u> (unless otherwise agreed) and must be completed to pass the course.
3 CP	<p>Optional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A documented research paper on one woman war reporter <u>or</u> a topic related to the course of no more than 6000 words (including references and bibliography); - The research paper can be written in English <u>or</u> German - Deadline: 30 September 2022; - This individual assignment is <u>graded</u>.

Important

1. As English will be the second language for most of us, I strive to create an environment where everyone can speak freely without fear of being criticised or ridiculed by others.
2. Electronic devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops) may be used for classwork only.
3. Discussions in class may not be recorded in sound- or image-recordings without the instructor's written permission.
4. Out of courtesy and respect, please inform the instructor if you cannot come to class.

Syllabus

Meetings: Monday, 2-4 p.m., room SH D1020

The weekly seminar readings are available on Stud.IP.

<p>25 April (1)</p>	<p>Introduction: Women War Reporters</p> <p><u>Video</u>: Women War Reporters (first 2:33 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nv3D5K2BiQ</p> <p><u>Reading for all</u>:</p> <p>Seul, Stephanie: "Women War Reporters", in Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2019. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/women_war_reporters.</p>
<p>2 May (2)</p>	<p>The First World War: A Global and a Total War</p> <p><u>Video</u>: World War I (Short Version) (8:48 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLj5r2nZHB8&t=65s</p> <p><u>Reading for all</u>:</p> <p>Proctor, Tammy M.: "The Great War and the Making of a Modern World." <i>Utah Historical Quarterly</i> 86,3 (2018), pp. 191-203. Online: https://issuu.com/utah10/docs/uhq_volume86_2018_number3.</p> <p>Strachan, Hugh: "Introduction." In: Hugh Strachan (ed.): <i>The Oxford Illustrated</i></p>

	<p><i>History of the First World War. New Edition.</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 1-10.</p> <p><u>Suggested further reading:</u></p> <p>Howard, Michael: <i>The First World War: A Very Short Introduction.</i> Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.</p> <p>Highly recommended as background information on WWI</p>
9 May (3)	<p>War and the Media: Censorship, Propaganda, and War Correspondents</p> <p><u>Video:</u> Interview with Philip Knightley, author of <i>The First Casualty</i> (first 7 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3OzP1Y7rmI</p> <p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Luckhurst, Tim: “War Correspondents.” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2016. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war_correspondents.</p> <p>Jestin, Mathieu: “War Reporters.” In: Olivier Dard and Sonia Bledniak (eds.), <i>Digital Encyclopedia of European History</i>. Paris: (Sorbonne Université, 2020). Online: https://ehne.fr/en/node/12464.</p> <p>Williams, Kevin: “War Correspondents as Sources for History.” <i>Media History</i>, 18,3-4 (2012), pp. 341-360 (read pp. 345-347).</p> <p><u>Suggested further reading:</u></p> <p>Keisinger, Florian: “Press/Journalism.” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/pressjournalism.</p>
16 May (4)	<p>Women and the First World War</p> <p><u>Video:</u> Sustaining Total War - Women in World War One: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cVSjzuvThE</p>

	<p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Grayzel, Susan R.: “Women’s Mobilization for War.” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/womens_mobilization_for_war.</p> <p>Higonnet, Margaret R.: “At the front.” In: Jay Winter (ed.): <i>The Cambridge History of the First World War. Vol. III: Civil Society</i>: Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014, pp. 121-51.</p>
23 May (5)	<p>Historical Sources: Digital Newspaper Archives</p> <p>Introduction to newspapers as historical sources and to digital newspaper archives in a variety of countries in preparation for research assignment</p> <p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Bingham, Adrian: “The Digitization of Newspaper Archives: Opportunities and Challenges for Historians.” <i>Twentieth Century British History</i> 21,2 (2010), pp. 225-31. Online: https://doi.org/10.1093/tcbh/hwq007.</p> <p>Nicholson, Bob: “The Digital Turn. Exploring the methodological possibilities of digital newspaper archives.” <i>Media History</i>, 19,1 (2013), pp. 59-73. Online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2012.752963</p> <p><u>Suggested further reading:</u></p> <p>Vella, Stephen: “Newspapers.” In: Miriam Dobson and Benjamin Ziemann (eds.), <i>Reading Primary Sources: The Interpretation of Texts from Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century History</i>. London and New York, 2009, pp. 192-208.</p>
30 May (6)	<p>No Seminar – Reading Week (instructor at conference)</p> <p><u>Research assignment:</u></p> <p>Researching women war reporters in digitised newspaper archives and preparation of a short oral presentation of your findings in class (including printed handout, to be sent to instructor by 9 June, and upload on Stud.IP)</p>



	<p>Oral presentation of your research findings on 13 June (results, experiences/problems encountered when researching women journalists)</p> <p>More detailed instructions to follow</p>
6 June (7)	No Seminar – Bank Holiday
13 June (8)	Student Presentations Presentation of the research findings in groups (including printed handout)
20 June (9)	Women War Reporters Accredited by the Austro-Hungarian Armed Forces <u>Reading for all:</u> Seul, Stephanie: “A female war correspondent on the Italian front, 1915-1917: The Austrian travel journalist and photographer Alice Schalek.” <i>Journal of Modern Italian Studies</i> 21,2 (2016), pp. 220-51. Online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1354571X.2015.1134183 . Dubbs, Chris: <i>An Unladylike Profession. American Women War Correspondents in World War I</i> . Lincoln: Potomac Books, 2020, pp. 27-48. <u>Suggested further reading:</u> Kroeger, Brooke: <i>Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist</i> . New York: Times Books, 1994, pp. 389-434. Tepperberg, Christoph: “War Press Office (Austria-Hungary).” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i> , issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2015. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war_press_office_austria-hungary . Ehrenpreis, Petronilla: “Press/Journalism (Austria-Hungary).” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i> , issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/pressjournalism_austria-hungary .

<p>27 June (10)</p>	<p>Women War Reporters in Italy</p> <p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Gubert, Carla: “We are exiting the realm of life, for real, to enter the theatre of war’: Flavia Steno’s reports from the front.” <i>Journal of Modern Italian Studies</i>, 21,2 (2016), pp. 252-270. Online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1354571X.2015.1134180.</p> <p>Perugi, Rosella: “Stefania Turr.” In: <i>The Literary Encyclopedia</i>. First published 18 September 2020. Online: https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=14470 (accessed 25 March 2022).</p> <p>Seul, draft article on Avice Waterman</p> <p>Dubbs, Chris: <i>An Unladylike Profession. American Women War Correspondents in World War I</i>. Lincoln: Potomac Books, 2020, pp. 167-175.</p> <p><u>Suggested further reading:</u></p> <p>Wilcox, Vanda: “Italian Front.” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/italian_front.</p> <p>Forno, Mauro: “Press/Journalism (Italy).” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2015. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/pressjournalism_italy.</p>
<p>4 July (11)</p>	<p>Nurses Reporting War</p> <p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Seul, Stephanie: “Transcending Boundaries: Daily Express Correspondent Annie Christitch's Reporting from First World War Serbia,” <i>TMG Journal for Media History</i> 24,1-2 (2021), pp. 1-38. Online: https://www.tmgonline.nl/articles/10.18146/tmg.791/.</p>

	<p><u>Suggested further reading:</u></p> <p>Hallett, Christine E.: <i>Nurse Writers of the Great War</i>. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016, pp. 1-26. Online: https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1b3h94f.</p> <p>Bonnerjee, Samraghni: “The lure of war’: reconsidering the motivations of nurses to volunteer in the First World War.” <i>Women's History Review</i> 28,7 (2019), pp. 1096-1114. Online: https://doi.org/10.1080/09612025.2019.1608683.</p>
<p>11 July (12)</p>	<p>Reporting War and Revolution in Russia</p> <p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Dubbs, Chris: <i>An Unladylike Profession. American Women War Correspondents in World War I</i>. Lincoln: Potomac Books, 2020, pp. 195-226.</p> <p>Hollihan, Kerrie Logan: <i>Reporting under Fire. 16 Daring Women War Correspondents and Photojournalists</i>, Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2014, pp. 24-35.</p> <p><u>Suggested further reading:</u></p> <p>Read, Christopher: “Revolutions (Russian Empire).” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/revolutions_russian_empire.</p> <p>Dowling, Timothy C.: “Eastern Front.” In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), <i>1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War</i>, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/eastern_front.</p> <p><u>Suggested reading of sources:</u></p> <p>The following books can be downloaded from Internet Archive:</p> <p>Beatty, Bessie: <i>The Red Heart of Russia</i>. New York: Century, 1918. Online: https://archive.org/details/redheartofrussia00beatrich.</p>



	<p>Bryant, Louise: <i>Six Red Months in Moscow: An Observer's Account of Russia Before and During the Proletarian Dictatorship</i>. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1918. Online: https://archive.org/details/bryant-sixredmonthinrussia.</p> <p>Dorr, Rheta Childe: <i>Inside the Russian Revolution</i>. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Online: https://archive.org/details/insiderussianrev00dorr.</p>
18 July (13)	<p>Concluding Session: A Female Perspective on the War</p> <p><u>Reading for all:</u></p> <p>Seul, “Women War Reporters” (see seminar 1, 25 April; read pp. 14-15).</p> <p>Steiner, Linda: “Gender under fire in war reporting.” In: Sharoni, Simona / Welland, Julia; Steiner, Linda et al. (eds.): <i>Handbook on Gender and War</i>. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2016, pp. 313-333.</p> <p>Course Wrap Up</p>

Resources

Course Reserve Collection (Semesterapparat), University Library, Ground Floor

- Allan, Stuart and Barbie Zelizer (eds.): *Reporting War: Journalism in Wartime*. London and New York: Routledge, 2004.
- Baker, Jeannine: *Australian women war reporters: Boer War to Vietnam*, Coogee: NewSouth Publishing, 2015.
- Bingham, Adrian: *Gender, Modernity, and the Popular Press in Inter-War Britain*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2004.
- Brennen, Bonnie and Hanno Hardt (eds.): *Picturing the Past: Media, History, and Photography*. Urbana and Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1999.
- Chambers, Deborah, Linda Steiner and Carole Fleming: *Women and Journalism*. London et al.: Routledge, 2004.
- Dubbs, Chris: *An Unladylike Profession. American Women War Correspondents in World War I*. Lincoln: Potomac Books, 2020.
- Edwards, Julia: *Women of the World: The Great Foreign Correspondents*. New York: Ivy Books, 1989.
- Edy, Carolyn M.: *The Woman War Correspondent, the U.S Military, and the Press, 1846-1947*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2017.
- Grayzel, Susan R. and Tammy M. Proctor: *Gender and the Great War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Harris, Janet and Kevin Williams: *Reporting War and Conflict*. London and New York, 2019.
- Hollihan, Kerrie Logan: *Reporting under Fire. 16 Daring Women War Correspondents and Photojournalists*, Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2014.
- Howard, Michael: *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. **Available as an Ebook via SuUB (Bremen University Library).**
- Knightley, Philip: *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero, Propagandist and Myth-Maker from the Crimea to Iraq*. London: André Deutsch, 2003.
- Proctor, Tammy M.: *Civilians in a World at War, 1914-1918*. New York: New York University Press, 2010. **Available as an Ebook via SuUB (Bremen University Library).**
- Strachan, Hugh (ed.): *The Oxford Illustrated History of the First World War. New Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. **Available as an Ebook via SuUB (Bremen University Library).**

Tusan, Michelle Elizabeth: *Women Making News: Gender and Journalism in Modern Britain*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2005.

Williams, Kevin: *A New History of War Reporting*. London and New York: Routledge, 2020.

Winter, Jay (ed.): *The Cambridge History of the First World War*. 3 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. **Available as an Ebook via SuUB (Bremen University Library).**

Online Sources and Reference Works

1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War (<https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/home.html>) is an English-language virtual reference work on the First World War and an excellent resource that will be used throughout the course.

The *1914-1918 Online Timeline* has links at each event on their timeline to detailed articles written by leading scholars: <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/ww1-timeline/>.

The theme *Media* in *1914-1918 Online* contains a large number of essays related to media, censorship and propaganda during the First World War: <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/themes/media/>.

You can find further useful material on the First World War on the websites of the **Imperial War Museum** in London <https://www.iwm.org.uk/>, and of the **British Library** in London <https://www.bl.uk/world-war-one>. Primary sources can be found in the **Adam Matthew Digital Ltd collection** “The First World War” <https://www.firstworldwar.amdigital.co.uk/>, which can be accessed through the Bremen University Library <https://www.suub.uni-bremen.de/> (Geschichte: Fachdatenbanken).

Digital Newspaper Archives (free access)

The following is a list of free digital newspaper archives that will be used throughout the course:

Germany

Deutsches Zeitungsportal, <https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/newspaper?lang=de>

Zeit.punkt NRW, <https://zeitpunkt.nrw/>

DigiPress, <https://digipress.digitale-sammlungen.de/>

ZEFYS, <https://zefys.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/>

Austria

ANNO, <https://anno.onb.ac.at/>

France

Gallica, <https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/presse-et-revues?mode=desktop>

United States

Chronicling America, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Utah Digital Newspapers, <https://digitalnewspapers.org/>

Portal to Texas History, Texas Digital Newspaper Program,
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/>

Australia

Trove, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

New Zealand

Papers Past, <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Other Digital Archives:

Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/>

HathiTrust Digital Library, <https://www.hathitrust.org/>

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, <https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/>

Austrian National Library, <https://www.onb.ac.at/>

Further Reading

Badsey, Stephen: "Propaganda: Media in War Politics." In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), *1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/propaganda_media_in_war_politics.

Demm, Eberhard: "Censorship (Version 2.0)." In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), *1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2017. Online: <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/censorship>.

Edy, Carolyn: "Trust but Verify: Myths and Misinformation in the History of Women War Correspondents." *American Journalism*, 36,2 (2019), pp. 242-251. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/08821127.2019.1602420>.

Griffin, Michael: "The Great War Photographs: Constructing Myths of History and Photojournalism." In: *Picturing the Past: Media, History, and Photography*, eds. Bonnie Brennen and Hanno Hardt (Urbana and Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1999), 122-57 (**Course Reserve Collection (Semesterapparat)**)

Horne, John: "End of a Paradigm? The Cultural History of the Great War." *Past & Present* 242, 1 (2019), 155–192. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/pty039>.

Maurantino, Nicole: "Archiving the Visual: The promises and pitfalls of digital newspapers." *Media History* 20,1 (2014), 88-102. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2013.870749>

Philpott, William: "Warfare 1914-1918 (Version 1.1)." In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), *1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2021. Online: https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/warfare_1914-1918

Prieto, Sara: "'Without methods': Three female authors visiting the Western Front." *First World War Studies* 6,2 (2015), 171-185. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/19475020.2015.1038842>.

Putnam, Lara: "The Transnational and the Text-Searchable: Digitized Sources and the Shadows They Cast." *American Historical Review* 121, 2 (2016), 377–402. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/121.2.377>.

Roberts, Hilary: "Photography." In: Ute Daniel, Peter Gatrell, Oliver Janz, Heather Jones, Jennifer Keene, Alan Kramer, and Bill Nasson (eds.), *1914-1918 Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, issued by Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin 2014. Online: <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/photography>.

Strandgaard Jensen, Helle: "Digital Archival Literacy for (All) Historians." *Media History* 27,2 (2021), 251-265. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2020.1779047>.

Zelizer, Barbie: "On 'Having Been There': 'Eyewitnessing' as a Journalistic Key Word." *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 24,5 (2007), 408-428. Online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07393180701694614>.