

The First World War through Arab Eyes

DISCIPLINES: Arabic Language and Literature/Contemporary History

THEME: The Great War and the Arab World

CONVENORS: Maria Avino, Paola Viviani

PANEL SUMMARY

In the European collective imagination, the idea that the Old Continent was the main - if not practically exclusive – stage of the First World War prevails. As is known, however, the conflict also traumatically involved the Arab world. The military incidents that took place on the Eastern front are undeniable, albeit not well known to most, for they originated and led to events of great importance both for politics and for everyday life in Arab countries. Here, in fact, European propaganda often pitted men and women against each other although they were not divided by any type of ethnic, religious or political contrast. At the end of the First World War, the division of the Middle East into areas of European influence left a mark on the occupied populations for a long time.

It is within such a context that a sort of Arab solidarity was formed and sometimes corroborated, bringing to the formation of nationalist movements whose members were among the first to express the point of view of their poorest countrymen in relation to the new geopolitical situation, as testified by literary and paraliterary texts written by famous Muslim and non-Muslim Arab intellectuals, thinkers and reformers.

The Arab nationalist movements following the First World War have been extensively studied in terms of their ideology and claims, and their proposed methods for attaining such requests have been investigated. However, little attention has been hitherto dedicated to the Great War and the Eastern question in general from the perspective of the Arabs.

Those participating in this panel will therefore be asked to inquire into the phenomenon considered here - as well as the fields of journalism, literature and essays - with the intent of highlighting the Arab point of view of these significant historical events.

Submissions and Deadlines

Proposals must include a title, an abstract and five keywords. Abstracts should be between 300 and 400 words.

Accepted languages are English and French (WOCMES working languages).

Proposals must be sent in both Word and PDF formats to Maria Avino, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Dipartimento di Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo, meiavino@unior.it;

Paola Viviani, Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche “Jean Monnet”, paola.viviani@unicampania.it.

The deadline for proposals submission is September 30, 2017.

Authors will be notified of acceptance on or before October 20, 2017.

Further information about WOCMES-5 is available at <http://www.tresculturas.org/wocmes18/>