

Symposium

An Eye and an Ear for Conflict: War and Representation

The Ways of War Centre

The Ways of War Centre invites you to attend a Symposium at the University of Reading

Speakers:

Professor Paul Gough, RMIT University

Painting War: Paul Nash and Stanley Spencer

Professor Hilary Footitt, University of Reading

Languages at War

Associate Professor Lisa Purse, University of Reading

Cinematic Representations of War in the 'War on Terror'

An important part of the evolution of modern conflict is the proliferation of media through which war is comprehended. Much attention is devoted to the written word, from poetry to novels. But war has long attracted attempts to represent it through sight, sound and the moving image. Today, spectators frame clashes through viral footage, tweets and 'live feeds'.

This Symposium considers how the 'war experience' is mediated beyond the written word. We examine the representation of conflict through three channels of representation: pictures, language and film. Our keynote speaker, Paul Gough, will examine the art work of Paul Nash and Stanley Spencer, both of whom portrayed landscapes 'barren, sightless, godless'. Hilary Footitt explores the relationship between languages, war, and the 'foreign' in intelligence, in military-civilian relations, and in displaced communities. And Lisa Purse discusses how film represented conflict during the War on Terror.

Participants from a range of disciplinary backgrounds are invited to consider how humans interpret and attempt to 'capture' conflict in visual, oral and cinematic representations. We ask what representations 'are' and 'do', across the widest possible range, as ways of imparting or denying meaning to violence, as means of creating intimacy or distance, as devices for consolation or disillusion, and as vehicles for accentuating sameness and difference.

For further information or register contact:

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