

MKGD Online Research Colloquium in the Winter Term 2026-27

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Book Presentation and Discussion

Forgotten Soldiers: Women, the Military and Wars in Europe since 1600

(Vergessen Soldatinnen: Frauen im Militär und in den Kriegen Europas seit 1600, Suhrkamp, 2026)

Prof. em. Dr KAREN HAGEMANN
(University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA)

Monday, October 5, 2026, 4:00–6:00 pm (CET)

In times of war, women have served in European armed forces for hundreds of years, as camp followers, soldiers' wives, nurses, military auxiliaries, female soldiers or partisans. Yet, their history has been largely forgotten. The book takes a comparative look at the military deployment of women and how it changed between the beginning of the Thirty Years' War and the end of the Second World War, focusing on Europe and selected colonial and imperial conflicts. It describes the war experiences of these women, how they were perceived at the time, and their place in the collective memory of war. The book argues that wars in history have rarely been fought without female support. It makes visible these women as the „forgotten female soldiers“ of military and war history.

Karen Hagemann is James G. Kenan Distinguished Professor emerita of History and Adjunct Professor of the Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Together with Stefan Dudink and Sonya O. Rose, she is editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Gender, War and the Western World since 1600* (Oxford University Press 2020).

Comment: Prof. em. Dr MICHAEL GEYER (University of Chicago)

Moderation: Prof. Dr ISABEL HEINEMANN (Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich / Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

Organizers: PD Dr Anne-Laure Briatte (Sorbonne Université); Prof. Dr Tanja Bühner (University of Salzburg); Prof. Dr Isabelle Deflers and PD Dr Anke Fischer-Kattner (University of the Bundeswehr Munich); Prof. em. Dr Karen Hagemann (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); Prof. Dr Isabel Heinemann (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich); Dr Jasper Heinzen (University of York).

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