



Forschungsverbund
Militär, Krieg und Geschlecht/Diversität
Research Network Military, War and Gender/Diversity



ZMSBW
Zentrum für Militärgeschichte
und Sozialwissenschaften der
Bundeswehr

Second international MKGD-ZMSBW Conference

Masculinities, Militaries, and Mass Violence in Transition

Wednesday to Friday, January 21 to 23, 2026

At the Bundeswehr Centre for Military History and Social Sciences, Zeppelinstraße 127/128,
14471 Potsdam, House 12, Hans-Meier-Welcker-Saal

Hosts:

- Research Network Military, War and Gender/Diversity (MKGD)
- Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBW)
- University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Department of Social Sciences and Public Affairs
- DFG Research Group "Military Cultures of Violence", University of Potsdam
- Military History Working Group (Arbeitskreis Militärgeschichte, AKM)

Registration

A registration for the conference on Thursday and Friday, January 22 and 23, 2026, is necessary until: **January 5, 2026.**

Entry to the public keynote on Wednesday, 21 January 2026 is free; but a registration is necessary.



A registration form you will find on our conference website:

<https://mkgd.hypotheses.org/upcomingconference>

Please send the registration form to: Daniel R. Bonenkamp, MA
(daniel.rugerio@unibw.de)

The conference fee is 25 EUR (for coffee and lunch breaks). It has to be paid in cash during the registration on site.

Programme

Aims of the Conference

The second international conference of the Research Network on Military, War and Gender/Diversity (MKGD), founded in March 2024, together with the Bundeswehr Centre for Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw) will focus on the themes of masculinities, armed forces and violence in transition. This will enable comparisons to be made across time and regions, as well as exploring continuities and ruptures, and similarities and differences. The regional focus will be on a broadly defined Europe in its global context. The temporal framework will range from the early modern period to the present, including the aftermath and memories of World War II.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

5:00–6:00 PM: Welcome Reception for the Conference Participants

6:00–7:30 PM: Public Keynote

(Entry to the public keynote is free; but a registration is necessary.)

Welcome by: Colonel Dr Frank Hagemann (Commander of the ZMSBw, Potsdam)

- **Prof. Dr Aaron Belkin** (San Francisco State University)
Gender Identity and Violence in Authoritarian Times: Reflections on Transgender Military Service

What might the Trump administration's policies banning transgender service members say about how fascist political power operates more broadly? In this keynote address, Belkin argues that the same blind spot that occludes the role that gender typically plays in military socialization complicates efforts to understand how fascist political power consolidates and operates in the US and beyond. In hopes of shining light on this blind spot, he interrogates political and organizational questions concerning military service by transgender Americans as an occasion for telling a story about categorization, binary thinking, and social control in military organizations and in fascist politics.

Aaron Belkin is Professor of Political Sciences at the San Francisco State University and served for 24 years as director of the Palm Center, which the Advocate named as one of America's most effective LGBT rights organizations. Harvard Law Professor Janet Halley said of Belkin that, "Probably no single person deserves more credit for the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell.'" His book, *Bring Me Men; Military Masculinity and the Benign Facade of American Empire, 1898-2001*, was published in 2012 by Columbia University Press and picked up by Oxford University Press in 2013.

Moderation: Prof. Dr Karen Hagemann (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

7:30–8:30 PM: Reception

Thursday, January 22, 2026

8:30–9.15 AM: Registration and Welcome Coffee

9:15–9:45 AM: Welcome and Introduction

- Colonel Dr Frank Hagemann (Commander of ZMSBw, Potsdam)
- Prof. Dr Dr Alaric Searle (Senior Scientist and Head of Research, ZMSBw, Potsdam)
- Prof. Dr Karen Hagemann (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and MKGD)

9:45–11:00 AM: Introductory Keynote: Masculinity, War, and Genocide: State and Perspectives of Historical Inquiries

- Prof. Dr Thomas Kühne (Clark University, Worcester, MA)

Moderation: Dr Heiko Biehl (ZMSBw)

11:00 AM–1:00 PM: Panel 1: The Development of Early Modern Constructions of Military Masculinity

Moderation: Prof. Dr Isabelle Deflers (University of the Bundeswehr Munich)

- Prof. Dr Catherine Fletcher (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Interpersonal Violence and Sixteenth-century Italian Military Masculinity: the Cases of four Papal Paptains-General
- Barbaros Köksal, MA (University of Potsdam, DFG-Project Military Cultures of Violence)
Masculinity, Violence, and Legitimacy: Gendered Perceptions and Violent Practices in Ottoman Military Culture during the Great Turkish War, 1683–1699
- Dr Lucian Staiano-Daniels (Stanford University, Hoover Institution)
Normalizing the Mercenaries: Masculinity and the Ordinary Lives of Soldiers in Seventeenth-Century Central Europe
- Dr Ilya Berkovich (Austrian Academy of Sciences Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies)
The Domestication of the Common Soldier: Plebeian Military Masculinity in Eighteenth-Century Europe

1:00–2:00 PM: Lunch Break

2:00–4:00 PM: Panel 2: Competing Concepts and Practices of Military Masculinities in the long Nineteenth Century

Moderation: PD Dr Anke Fischer-Kattner (University of the Bundeswehr Munich)

- Jan-Martin Zollitsch, MA (Humboldt University of Berlin, DFG-Project Military Cultures of Violence)
“Now, however, all this is changed. The soldier has to be gentle, as well as brave.” The Franco-Prussian War as a Turning Point in Military Masculine Sensibilities?
- Prof. Dr Maciej Górny (Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences)
Male Role Models in the Polish 1863 Uprising and the American Confederacy

- **Puck de Boer, MA** (University of Groningen)
Marching to their own beat: Cultural Dynamics of Italian Soldier Resistance from the 1870s to the 1890s
- **Daniel Gunz, MA** (University of Vienna)
Male Same-Sex Desire and the Absence of Gender in the Armed Forces of the Habsburg Monarchy, 1855–1918

4:00–4:30 PM: Coffee Break

4:30–6:30 PM: Panel 3: Conflicted Military Masculinities in the Time of World War I

Moderation: Dr Jasper Heinzen (University of York)

- **Prof. Dr Jason Crouthamel** (Grand Valley State University)
'I've Fallen Deeply in Love with My Fokker Triplane:' Masculinity and German Aviators in the First World War
- **Prof. Dr Jiří Hutečka** (University of Pardubice)
War as a Struggle for Masculine Control in Czech Soldiers' Individual Experience, 1914–1918
- **Prof. Dr Brian K. Feltman** (Georgia Southern University)
A Common Thread: Manhood, Surrender, and Cultural Continuities in the First World War
- **Oscar Owen, MA** (University of Wolverhampton)
The British Captive as a Subordinate Form of Masculinity in the First World War

7:00 PM: Conference Dinner

Friday, January 23, 2026

9:30–11:45 AM: Panel 4: Masculinities and the Military in the Interwar Period

Moderation: PD Dr Christin Pschichholz (University of Potsdam, DFG-Project Military Cultures of Violence)

- **Prof. Dr Martina Salvante** (University of Nottingham)
Fractured Bodies, Contested Masculinities: Disabled Veterans and the Politics of Rehabilitation in Post-World War I Italy
- **Carolin Kaiser, MA** (ZMSBw, Potsdam)
Same Old, Same Old? Continuities and Discontinuities in Soldierly Images of Masculinity in the Reichswehr
- **Viktoria Wind, MA** (University of Graz)
Negotiating Military Hierarchies and Masculinity through Disciplinary Matters in the Austrian Bundesheer, 1920–1933
- **Dr Friederike C. Hartung** (ZMSBw, Potsdam)
Horsepower – A (Natural) 'Masculinity Extender'? The Cavalry of the Reichswehr and the Mechanization of Warfare

11:45 AM–12:45 PM: Lunch Break

12:45–3:00 PM: Panel 5: Variants of Masculinity and Politics in the Age of World War II

October 13, 2025

Moderation: Dr Frank Reichherzer (ZMSBw, Potsdam)

- **Prof. Dr Edward B. Westermann** (Texas A&M University-San Antonio)
The Intoxication of Genocidal Camaraderie: Masculinity and Community Forming Violence in Nazi Germany
- **Dr Agustin Cosovschi** (École française d'Athènes)
The Making of the Antifascist Man: Reading the Memoirs of Yugoslav Partisans through the Lens of Masculinities
- **Dr Katharina Seibert** (University of Tübingen)
Stubborn Noble Heroes in White: Changing Concepts of Masculinity from Republican to Franco Spain, 1936–1945
- **Dr Timothy Ellis-Dale** (Teesside University, Middlesbrough)
"Neutrality?" The Gendered Debate over Neutral Ireland's Place in the Second World War

3:00–3:30 PM: Coffee Break

3:30–5:15 PM: Panel 6: Military Masculinities, Violence and Sexuality during and after the World Wars

Moderation: Prof Dr Anne-Laure Briatte (Sorbonne Université)

- **Coline Gérard, MA, and Prof. Dr Emmanuel Debruyne** (Université catholique de Louvain)
Two Iterations of 'Virile Belgium': Head-shavings and Masculinity in the Diaries of liberated Belgians, October-November 1918 and September 1944
- **Prof. Dr Patrick Farges** (Université Paris Cité) and **Prof. Dr Elissa Mailänder** (Université Sciences Po, Paris)
'Interstitial Archives' of Queer Nazi Military Masculinities? Looking for Traces of World War II at the Schwule Museum Berlin
- **Dr Naama Shik** (The International Institute for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem)
Army, War, and Men Who Rape: Ideology, Masculinity, and Sexual Violence as Genocide – From the Holocaust to October 7th

5:15–5:30 PM: Coffee Break

5:30–6:30 PM: Final Discussion

- **Prof. Dr Christa Hämmerle** (University of Vienna)
- **Prof. Dr Alaric Searle** (ZMSBw, Potsdam)

Moderation: Prof. Dr Isabel Heinemann (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich / Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History Munich/Berlin)

7:00 PM: Joint Dinner

If you have any questions, please contact the organizers at:

mkgd.forschungsverbund@gmail.com

Organisers:

October 13, 2025

- Prof. Dr Karen Hagemann (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
(MKGD contact: hagemann@unc.edu)
- Dr Friederike Hartung (ZMSBw, Potsdam)
(ZMSBw contact: FriederikeHartung@bundeswehr.org)
- Prof. Dr Isabelle Deflers (University of the Bundeswehr Munich, AKM)
- PD Dr Anke Fischer-Kattner (University of the Bundeswehr Munich)
- Prof. Dr Christa Hämmerle (University of Vienna)
- PD Dr Christin Pschichholz (University of Potsdam, DFG-Project Military Cultures of Violence)

Organisational assistants:

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