

Call for papers

Nationalism, War and Defeat

Interdisciplinary Conference on Nationalism in Copenhagen, 25-26 May 2023

Keynote speakers

The keynote speakers are Andreas Wimmer (Columbia University), Ute Frevert (Max Planck Institute for Human Development), Siniša Malešević (University College Dublin), and Erica Benner (independent).

Call for papers

With the fall of the Berlin Wall the territorial threat against Western Europe diminished. As the impact of war on society became less pronounced compared to earlier periods in history, so did the focus on the interlinkage between war and nationalism. However, the Russian invasion and the war in Ukraine has once again brought war, nationalism, and their relationship to the forefront of politics. A seismic shift within especially European politics seems to be in the making. Moreover, even though the war itself is limited to Ukraine, the shock is felt across the world. History has not ended, war, its consequences, and national responses to it are once more of central concern.

The aim of the conference is to study the relationship in modern times between war and a nation's sense of self, focusing on the one hand on nationalism as a prelude to war and on the other hand on the consequences of war for national sentiment. Within the overarching theme of war and nationalism, the conference will pay attention to both how victories and the ways in which military defeats influence nationalism, national identities and national histories. The reasoning behind this focus is that defeat often seems to have as pronounced an impact as victory on the development of national identities and national narratives. Unlike victories, great military defeats create a powerful impulse for change, as national movements strive for national recreation, rejuvenation and salvation.

By creating a venue for a large number of case studies from across the globe, the conference offers us an opportunity to explore both the similarities and the dissimilarities between different cultures, regions and periods. This comparison will allow us to gain greater insight into effects of the interplay between war, defeat and nationalism.

Abstracts

The conference is *interdisciplinary*. Proposals from both the social sciences and the humanities are welcomed, including sociology, political science, economics, history, art history, and literature.

Abstracts may contain proposals for individual papers, entire panels and workshops. Abstracts are to be submitted before December 1st 2022 at lohl@sdu.dk.

All abstracts will be peer reviewed before final acceptance. We will let you know whether your abstract has been accepted in January 2023.

Conference organizers

The conference is chaired by historian Rasmus Glenthøj, Associate Professor at the Department of History, University of Southern Denmark, and PI of the research project: 'The Shadow of Defeat: The Politics of History and 1864 in Danish identity', generously funded by the Carlsberg Foundation, and is co-organised by Professor Benedikte Brincker (HOD) and the Department of Sociology at the University of Copenhagen.

Venue

The conference will take place at the Faculty of Social Science, University of Copenhagen, 25-26 May 2023.

Contact

If you have any queries, you can contact the organizing team by email to Louise Lindgaard at lohl@sdu.dk or by (+45) 65 50 28 27.

We look forward to welcoming you to Copenhagen in May 2023.