

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# Veterans in Society 2017: *Veterans, Globalized*

**Conference dates:** 20-22 April 2017

**Location:**

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center  
Roanoke, Virginia

The 2017 Veterans in Society conference takes the First World War as its point of departure to encourage contributions across disciplines that view veterans and their societies in comparative, transnational, or international perspective. Inasmuch as that war arguably created the modern conceptions of veteran-ness among millions of people, with implications over the following century and around the world, we also invite papers that address questions raised by the “Great War” as they manifest themselves in veteran-society intersections in other eras, countries, or contexts.

The "Great War" dramatically changed Europe and mobilized the United States as a global power. Americans may be less attentive to how that war also drew expeditionary forces (including non-white troops and auxiliaries) from Europe's colonies into battlefields of Europe and the Middle East, raising the stakes of colonial politics on imperial peripheries in Africa and Asia. Regimes fell and national identities were transformed. Casualties numbered in the millions, while new kinds of injuries, new diagnoses, new modes of treatment and long-term care, and new ideas about physical and psychological normality. Distinctions between the battle front and the home front blurred in the face to mobilization for total war and the advent of aerial and submarine warfare. From poetry to cinema to architecture, creative works flourished to make meaning out of the war and the social and intellectual systems in which it had been embedded.

## Themes

The organizers expect to group submissions into thematic clusters, such as:

**Solidarity and social transformation.**

- How has veteran-ness manifested itself in the words and/or deeds of national-scale social and political movements?
- In what ways and for what ends have veterans participated (or not) at the community scale in civil society?

### Receptions and environments.

- In what respects have military experiences encouraged more cosmopolitan (or more parochial) attitudes among veterans?
- How have civilians dealt with the cultural and economic conundrum of "how ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree?"
- *Cui bono*? How have societies determined what -- if anything -- they owe their veterans (or some of their veterans): the thanks of grateful nations or payoffs to potential threats? How have such allocations of benefits played out?

### Technologies.

- How have veterans responded to changes in war-related sciences and technologies?
- In what ways could sciences and technologies (including social sciences and medicine) have constructed veteran identities?

### Meanings and representations.

- Among veterans, how have identity and difference manifested themselves?
- How have veterans found or created meanings to situate their military experiences amid civilian society?
- How have veterans and non-veterans represented or explained themselves to each other?

## Submission Guidelines

The conference organizers anticipate that most successful proposals will be for papers presenting completed research and technical papers. However, we encourage proposals that present promising, provocative work in progress as well as academically sound research that may use nontraditional formats/media.

Proposals (email preferred) should consist of

- A **cover letter** providing contact information for the author(s).
- An **abstract** in an attached file (or separate sheet of paper). Abstracts should be no longer 500 words and formatted for blind review: no author names, affiliations, or other personally identifiable information.

All submissions should conform to a widely accepted style that will be intelligible to an interdisciplinary audience (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago).

Submit proposals to either

#### ViS 2017 Conference Proposal

Attn: Dr James Dubinsky  
Department of English (MC 0112)  
Virginia Tech  
181 Turner St NW  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
[dubinsky@vt.edu](mailto:dubinsky@vt.edu)

#### ViS 2017 Conference Proposal

Attn: Dr Bruce Pencek  
University Libraries (MC 0434)  
Virginia Tech  
560 Drillfield Dr  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
[bpencek@vt.edu](mailto:bpencek@vt.edu)

## Important Dates

- **Jan 13, 2017:** Submission due
- **Jan 30, 2017:** Notification (Accept, Conditional Accept, or Reject)
- **July 3, 2017 (estimated):** Submission of contributions to proceedings
- **Sept 15, 2017 (estimated):** Public availability of proceedings

## Procedures

As previously, we hope the authors presenting at VIS 2017 will generate wide-ranging conversations that span disciplines, institutional affiliations, generations, and veteran/military/civilian status. We encourage high-level participation from all quarters, including professionals in fields pertaining to veterans, independent scholars, graduate students, and advanced undergraduates.

Authors will present their research in two phases:

1. **Proposals.** Please submit an abstract of no more than 500 words prepared for blind peer review and a cover letter.

Presentations of papers at the conference should be brief and conversational, engaging panelists and audience.

2. **Contributions to proceedings.** Authors will have a reasonable, limited time to revise their formal presentations' content and formatting for publication in the online conference proceedings. Authors may also include slide decks of the presentations, handouts, and other supplemental materials as part of the proceedings. Multimedia elements such as video or audio clips may be incorporated into the papers or submitted as supplemental files.

Contributions to the proceedings will be curated by the Virginia Tech Libraries to promote their widespread discovery, access, and preservation at no cost to authors or the public. Materials submitted to the proceedings will receive unique persistent document identifiers and date stamps. *Authors retain their own copyrights* but are responsible for their use of materials copyrighted by others.

If you would like additional information about ViS 2017, contact Bruce Pencek ([bpencek@vt.edu](mailto:bpencek@vt.edu)) or Jim Dubinsky ([dubinsky@vt.edu](mailto:dubinsky@vt.edu)).

*The Veterans in Society Conference series was founded at Virginia Tech in 2013. (See [proceedings](#).) The core organizers of the conferences were awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to deliver a summer institute for college and university faculty, [Veterans in Society: Ambiguities & Representations](#), held in July 2016.*