THE ORIGINS AND IMPACT OF WORLD WAR I: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

October 17-18, 2013
Columbia University in the City of New York

Room 1501 International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street, New York

This conference is organized in collaboration with:
the Harriman Institute, the Austrian Cultural Forum,
the Balassi Institute: Hungarian Cultural Center New York,
Flanders House New York, French Cultural Services in New York,
Goethe Institute New York, and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.
Thursday, October 17, 2013

5.30 – 7.00 p.m.

1501 International Affairs Building

Keynote Lecture: "Russia and the Origins of World War I: Time to Reconsider?"

Dominic Lieven (Cambridge)

(Introduced by Victoria de Grazia and Jack Snyder)

Friday, October 18, 2013

1501 International Affairs Building

9.00 – 9.15  Registration and Welcome (Tim Frye and Volker Berghahn)


  Chair: Alan Timberlake (Columbia)
  Presenters: Jack S. Levy (Rutgers), “The Role of Preventive Logic in German Decision-Making in 1914”
  Stig Foerster (Berne), “The Great Dilemma. The German General Staff and the Prospect of a Long War.”
  Volker Berghahn (Columbia), “The Role of International Big Business in the July Crisis of 1914”.

10.45-11.15  Coffee Break

11.15-12.45  Panel II: The Eastern Powers and the Origins World War I

  Chair: Istvan Deak (Columbia)
  Peter Bihari (Budapest), “Rationalization of the War in Hungarian Public Opinion”;
  Jack Snyder (Columbia), “Paradoxes of Russian Strategy in 1914”.

12.45-13.45  Lunch
14.00-15.30  Panel III: The Experience of Violence – An Interdisciplinary Dialogue I
Chair: Kimberly Marten (Barnard)
Presenters: Annette Becker (Paris), “Violence against Invaded and Occupied Women on the Western and Eastern Front”;
Jay Winter (Yale), “The Experience of Shell Shock in World War I and Its Legacies”;
Michael Matthews (US Military Academy, West Point), "Soldier's Heart, Shell Shock, Combat Fatigue, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Bio-behavioral Disorder or Social Construction?"

15.30-16.00  Coffee Break

16.00-17.30  Panel IV: The Experience of Violence – An Interdisciplinary Dialogue II
Chair: Tarik Amar (Columbia)
Presenters: Antoon Vrints (Gent), “Beyond Victimization: Violence as a Manifestation of Domestic Tensions in Occupied Belgium, 1914-1918”;
Ana Antic (London), “Reading Total War from Psychiatric Patients Files”
Jan Skudlinski (Warsaw), “‘Here Starts Half-Asia’. German Experiences on the Eastern Front in 1914”

17.30-18.45  Panel V: International Law and Modern Warfare
Chair: Michael Doyle (Columbia)
Presenters: Isabel Hull (Cornell), “International Law and the First World War”;