University of Worcester

BAAS BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

Call for Papers

Pro- and Anti-War Voices

Saturday, 11 November 2023

University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester, WR2 6AJ, UK

Young Americans for Freedom pro-Vietnam War demonstration, Boston Common, December 7, 1969. Jeff Albertson Photograph Collection (PH 57). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries. http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/muph057-b002-sl269-i008 and **Navy Nurse Susan Schnall** [**GI Movement**] leads an anti-war march for peace in San Francisco on October 12, 1968. Harvey Richards Media Archive, copyright Paul Richards. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/19/waging-peace-vietnam-anti-war-exhibition-gi-viet-cong

Warfare can take place in different theatres, and on the land, in the air, and at sea. Conflict leads to the creation of both war and home fronts. Sometimes wars are fought at "home", but they are mainly contested overseas. Wars affect not only those in the Military or those who see combat, but anyone who is connected to the war in a host of multi-faceted capacities. Leaders and states declare war; military leaders, the "top brass", plan strategy; but it is the Armed Forces, both voluntary and conscripted, made up of "ordinary" people, who fight, are wounded, and die, in wars of various kinds. Fighting affects the lives of civilians, as well as those who serve. Responses to war, both pro and anti, can result from a myriad of impetuses, including for example, personal relationships, patriotism, pacifism, and politics. This conference seeks to highlight and understand both **male and female voices who supported and opposed wars in the United States in any historical period.**

This conference encourages a "bottom-up" approach to History intending to gain a better understanding of the long-term importance that "regular" people have had during wartime. Its focus is on **voices** which have either been misrepresented in popular memory or ignored entirely. It is hoped that the sources of these voices will be as varied as the conflicts covered. These could include, for example, personal diaries, newspapers/newsletters, oral testimonies, photographs, and ephemera such as posters and pamphlets.

This conference will coincide with a **public exhibition**, with the same title, in The Hive [Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PD]. Materials currently relate to the anti-Vietnam War movement in the United States and exhibition contents will continue to expand during the next year. If speakers/participants have any materials related to their research which they would like to loan for inclusion, please get in touch with the conference organizers.

We welcome you to submit a paper relating to Pro- and Anti-War Voices considering how war is supported or protested on the ground level by the "ordinary" person. We would particularly like to encourage submissions from PGRs and ECAs. If we receive significant numbers of papers we may extend to a two-day conference, adding Friday, 10 November 2023.

Please send an abstract to **Joseph Rix** [rixj1_17@uni.worc.ac.uk] and/or
Dr Wendy Toon [w.toon@worc.ac.uk] by **31 May 2023**.