

Armed Groups and Political Violence in Belle Époque Europe

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Despite the conventional image of the Belle Époque as a time of peace, progress and optimism, the twenty years leading up to the outbreak of the First World War were a period in which the practice of organised violence was part of everyday life for thousands and thousands of male European men. Genuine paramilitary corps (such as the Ulster Volunteer Force), industrial protection groups, private police like the German *Zeichenwehr* or the Italian Volunteer Workers, and countless shooting clubs and military training associations are all examples of the process of militarisation which shaped many European countries.

This workshop aims to address this largely understudied topic by bringing together young and senior scholars to focus on political violence and processes of militarisation in France, the German Empire, Austria-Hungary and the United Kingdom between the 1880s and 1914. By analysing political, military and social contexts as well as individual case studies, the workshop aims not only to fill a gap in our knowledge of this period but also to think afresh and from a new perspective crucial issues such as the relationship between the rule of law and political violence, the impact of armed associations on citizen bodies and mass society, the causes of the First World War and its repercussions on European society.

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UVF 1914, courtesy of the US Library of Congress

12 - 13 December 2017
Sala Sante Bortolami



Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche, Geografiche e dell'Antichità

Via del Vescovado 30, Padova

12 December 2017

■ **First Session. Chair: Carlotta Sorba**

h. 09.30 – 13.30

Matteo Millan

University of Padova - PREWArAs Principal Investigator

Introduction. A false problem? Armed groups and political violence in *Belle Époque* Europe

Alessandro Saluppo

University of Padova – PREWArAs ERC Postdoctoral fellow

A time of remorselessly rising tension, of impeding doom: strikebreaking and violence in the Great Unrest, 1910 - 1914

h. 11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

Arnaud Houte

University of Paris – Panthéon Sorbonne

Political violence and French republican consensus, 1880-1914

Romain Bonnet

University of Padova – PREWArAs ERC Postdoctoral fellow

Organized violence, strikebreaking and the *Jaunes*. Institutionalized anti-republicanism in France *Belle Époque*

h. 13.30 – 14.30

Lunch break

■ **Second Session. Chair: Giulia Albanese**

h. 14.30 – 18.30

Laurence Cole

University of Salzburg

Militias, militaristic associations and political violence in Austria-Hungary c.1880-1914: Connections or disconnections?

Claire Morelon

University of Padova – PREWArAs ERC Postdoctoral fellow

Respectable citizens: patriotism, social order, and latent violence in Austrian armed associations

Sven Oliver Müller

University of Tübingen

Communities of Violence? Emotions and assaults at the homefront in Germany, Britain and France in 1914

Amerigo Caruso

University of Padova – PREWArAs ERC Postdoctoral fellow

Delegating violence? Strikes and social conflicts in Imperial Germany, 1889–1914

13 December 2017

■ **Roundtable. Chair: Heinz-Gerhard Haupt**

h. 09.30 – 12.30

Comparative and transnational perspectives in the study of pre-WWI political violence and armed associations